

University of Maryland School of Nursing

Monitoring Nursing Students During COVID-19 Pandemic

The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON), in consultation with the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) public health officer, will adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UMB guidelines for exposure risk and contact tracing.

Student Responsibilities

- 1) Nursing students who are symptomatic of COVID-19, have a COVID-19+ test, **or** have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 are expected to complete the [COVID-19 Report Form](#)¹ immediately. They also need to reach out to: a) UMSON's health officer² if they are participating in face-to-face learning activities and b) if applicable, the UMB contact person posted in campus housing to be placed in an alternative housing arrangement. Students are expected to follow instructions for quarantine, testing, and return to face-to-face activities as prescribed by the UMSON health officer.
- 2) Nursing students who are unvaccinated and are required by clinical sites to be tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis must comply with UMSON's instructions to obtain and submit results for weekly tests for COVID-19.
- 3) If students test positive for COVID-19, they must submit written diagnosis via lab (PCR test), health care provider confirmed positive antigen test, or a picture of a positive at-home rapid antigen test that contains a date stamp.

School Health Officer Responsibilities

- 1) The School's health officer will monitor for COVID-19 weekly testing compliance for unvaccinated students, as required. If a student is not compliant, the health officer will notify the program director/specialty director and associate dean for the program to ask that they work with the student to become compliant immediately.
- 2) Once notified through the UMB COVID-19 Report Form that a student has filed a report, the School's health officer will maintain contact with the student to determine their COVID-19 status and quarantine/isolation/testing requirements.
- 3) Students who undergo testing to be cleared for return from quarantine or isolation will share their test result(s) with the School's health officer. The health officer will offer guidance based on the test result(s) and circumstances of the situation.
- 4) In the case that the circumstances do not warrant contact tracing, the School's health officer will send an email to other nursing students in relevant learning activities that outlines the potential exposure and advises the students of their options for follow-up, including testing, and indicates the School will support them if they elect to quarantine.
- 5) The School's health officer will notify the appropriate program director/specialty director/associate dean that a student is quarantining or in isolation.
- 6) The School's health officer will notify the director, Office of the Registrar and Students Placements and the program director/specialty director/associate dean when a student is cleared to return to face-to-face learning activities.

¹ <https://safe.umaryland.edu/surveys/?s=TEPTH3PTX4>

² UMSON Health Officer – Kelsey Comeaux Bradford, MD, MPH, kbradford@umaryland.edu

Program Director/Specialty Director/Associate Dean Responsibilities

- 1) If notified by an instructor that a student has been exposed to a COVID-19+ person or that a student has COVID-19-like symptoms or tests COVID-19+ and it is unclear whether the student has filed a COVID-19 Report Form and been in contact with the School's health officer, the program director/specialty director/associate dean will contact the School's health officer.

Faculty/Staff Member Responsibilities

- 1) If a faculty member (including clinical instructors) is aware of student exposure to a COVID-19+ person or that a student has COVID-19-like symptoms or tests COVID-19+, they will contact the School's health officer and provide the following information, as available:
 - a. Date of exposure to COVID-19+ person
 - b. Date student became symptomatic and/or date of COVID-19+ test, if applicable
 - c. Where the last face-to-face learning activities took place in **the previous two days**
 - d. Whether the student has completed UMB's COVID-19 Report Form
- 2) The School's health officer will send the following communication to the student: "It is my understanding that you are either symptomatic for COVID-19, have been exposed to COVID-19, or have a recent positive test for COVID-19. If you haven't done so already, you are required to complete UMB's [COVID-19 Report Form](#) immediately to receive proper recommendations and clearance to return to learning activities through email communication from me, the UMSON health officer. I will be in contact with your program director so that the School can work with you to support your continued progression in the program while you follow my advice, if applicable."
- 3) The faculty or staff member must notify the appropriate program director/specialty director/associate dean to ensure necessary follow-up to support the student's continued progression. The program director/specialty director/associate dean will then notify the appropriate academic dean to develop a plan to continue monitoring the student's COVID-19 status and plan for supporting the student's continued progression. The academic dean will notify the School's health officer for purposes of ongoing follow-up.

Director, Office of the Registrar and Student Placements Responsibility

The director, Office of the Registrar and Student Placements notifies the clinical site coordinator when UMSON is notified that a student is symptomatic and/or COVID-19+ unless another UMSON employee has a close working relationship with the site. In that case, the designated UMSON employee will notify the site.

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For suggested changes to this document, please contact Jane Kirschling (kirschling@umaryland.edu), the Bill and Joanne Conway Dean, or Ann Mech, director of legal affairs (amech@umaryland.edu).

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