



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF NURSING COVID-19 ACADEMIC PLAN



Approved by:
Faculty Council, Staff Council and Dean's Council of the College of Nursing
July 31, 2020

UK College of Nursing COVID-19 Academic Plan Spring 2022

Background

The College of Nursing (CON) has assembled this comprehensive reopening plan to guide students, faculty, staff, and/or guests as they return to our building in Fall 2021.* We are committed to providing a safe environment for everyone. This document is also available on our website at <https://www.uky.edu/nursing/about-us/news/college-nursing-covid-19-updates>.

Please note that evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic may result in revised university, state, and/or national guidelines that will supersede the related content in this document. In addition, all learning environments (including classroom, clinical and laboratory settings) have the right to adjust learning experiences based on any concerns with COVID-19 positive cases and/or exposures. Teaching modalities and syllabi content may be revised based on changes in the pandemic.

Communication Plan

The CON Communication Director will work closely with University Public Relations and the Dean to ensure College's newsletters, website, social media channels, CANVAS notifications and any other internal or external communications related to COVID-19 management plans and resources are up-to-date and easily accessible.

Working and Learning Environment

Plan for Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission in the College of Nursing Building

- Students, faculty, staff, and/or guests will be encouraged to self-regulate while in the CON Building. Masks are required at all times; KN95 masks are strongly recommended. Physical distancing is encouraged as much as possible. Hand sanitizers will remain available and easily accessible.
- Activities such as ZOOM meetings and/or events will continue as felt best/appropriate for faculty and staff.
- If you feel sick or are positive for self-screening symptoms of COVID-19, practice self-isolation and contact your healthcare provider or University Health Services, your course faculty (students only), and the Assistant Dean for Academic Services (karen.butler@uky.edu).

Per the CDC, symptoms of COVID-19 may appear anytime from 2-14 days after exposure:

- Fever greater than 100.0 F
- Cough unrelated to season allergies
- New onset shortness of breath
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Muscle aches and pains
- Sore throat not associated with seasonal allergies
- Loss of taste or smell

A complete list of symptoms can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

Self-Isolation Guidelines

Students are expected to adhere to infection control guidelines established and communicated by the University of Kentucky. Should an individual identify as being infected or potentially infected, they should self-quarantine according to University and CDC Guidelines. These will be communicated to the student by the University and the public health department, which has the final say about quarantine length and conditions.

Students who self-quarantine should also report their absence to their course faculty and the Assistant Dean for Academic Operations at karen.butler@uky.edu. Faculty will work with students to accommodate absences from classes.

Reporting Suspicion of Exposure

Suspicion of an exposure to COVID-19 should be immediately reported to UK Health Corps at healthcorps@uky.edu and to the Assistant Dean for Academic Operations at karen.butler@uky.edu. Guidelines about quarantining will be provided at that time. This information will be shared with the Dean of the CON (unless the student requests otherwise) for the purpose of offering support during quarantine. Should a common-source outbreak (one in which a group of persons are all exposed to the virus from the same source) occur among College of Nursing faculty, staff and/or students, official information related to the situation will be transmitted to the College community as soon as possible by the Dean's Office and the Office of Academic Affairs using multiple communication platforms, including email.

COVID-19 Screening

CON faculty, staff and students will follow the University protocol for COVID-19 screening and testing. Everyone is required to complete the university's daily screener. More details are available at https://www.uky.edu/coronavirus/students/testing-screening-and-tracing?j=244481&sfmc_sub=122678087&l=20202_HTML&u=7558644&mid=10966798&jb=0#FAQ

Student Testing

Students who are fully vaccinated will not be required to complete COVID-19 entry or ongoing testing. Students who physically come to campus and who have not been vaccinated will be required to complete an entry test and to continue testing on a regular basis as required by UKHC and the University. Non-compliant students will not be able to come to class or clinical and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Students who test at a non-UK location should self-report their results at the following link: <https://hcselreport.uky.edu/>

Vaccination

COVID-19 vaccine is available free of charge to all faculty, staff and students. Appointments can be made through the UK website at <https://www.uky.edu/coronavirus/vaccines>. You may [Upload vaccination documentation here, via our self-report tool](#). UK will accept all vaccines approved by the World Health Organization.

All faculty and staff who work at UK HealthCare and other clinical agencies who require the vaccine must be vaccinated. Booster doses are available through the University at no cost and are strongly recommended.

All undergraduate nursing students (ABSN and traditional) must be vaccinated as mandated by UK HealthCare. All RN-BSN, MSN, or DNP students who have clinical rotations at UK HealthCare or any other clinical agency that requires the vaccine must be vaccinated. The vaccination series must be completed prior to the first day of classes in the student's first semester. Information about declination of the vaccine can be found at <https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/university-health-service/student-health/compliance>. *Please note that no one in the College of Nursing can approve a request for declination of the COVID-19 vaccine.*

Safe Return to Campus

Classroom, Clinical and Virtual Learning

All academic programs in the CON will begin classes on Monday, January 10, 2022 and will end in accordance with the University calendar.

The CON utilizes varied instruction methods across the undergraduate and graduate programs. Courses may be face-to-face, hybrid, or totally online. Teaching modalities and syllabi content may be revised based on changes in the COVID-19 pandemic.

BSN, MSN, DNP and PhD Degree Programs

All nursing degree programs shall adhere to the University of Kentucky Academic Calendar, requirements and specifications.

Clinical Participation at UK HealthCare

Expectations for anyone entering UK HealthCare and/or their integrated space are included in **Appendix 1**. Students who are engaged in clinical education at UK HealthCare must follow their Return to Campus Protocol for Student/Learners. For details please see <https://covid-19.ukhc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/121/2020/06/COVID-19-Screening-Protocol-for-Students-Learners.pdf>.

The Assistant Dean for Academic Operations manages COVID-19 related issues and is the designated contact for UKHC IPAC and other personnel.

- All students read this content and agree to follow the guidelines.
- Students must complete a daily screening. Any student who fails this screen will be referred to the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs for investigation and follow-up. No student may return to a UKHC facility until the screening failure has been cleared.
- **ALL STUDENTS MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED AGAINST THE VIRUS PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS IN THEIR FIRST SEMESTER. Booster doses are strongly recommended.**
- Universal masking is required when in UKHC, except when eating or drinking. KN95 masks are strongly recommended. Cloth masks are not allowed.
- Undergraduate students **may not** participate in the care of any COVID-positive or COVID-suspected patient, even if they have been test-fitted for an N95 mask for a nursing tech job.
- Graduate students who have been fit-tested at UKHC as part of their job responsibilities will be allowed to care for these patients while donning the appropriate PPE, including an N95 mask that has been fit tested for that specific student. Care of these patients in other clinical facilities will be determined by the specific agency's policy.
- CON students will wear protective eyewear in conjunction with the standard face mask as part of the UKHC universal mask policy. Please see the link for UKHC COVID-19 / patient care recommendations for PPE for more details. (<https://covid-19.ukhc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/121/2020/12/COVID-19-Inpatient-Recommendations-for-PPE.12.2.update.pdf>)
- The CON will manage student cohort size, and clinical faculty will ensure social distancing is maintained during observations, lunches, breaks and debriefs.
- For more information on UKHC's COVID-19 Information for Providers and Staff, please see https://covid-19.ukhc.org/2021/06/03/smart-return-to-pre-covid-operations/?j=362420&sfmc_sub=122678087&l=21367_HTML&u=10881446&mid=10966798&jb=0

Plan for College of Nursing Accessibility

The CON Building will continue to be unlocked and accessible to faculty and staff as needed for teaching/advising or conducting CON business operations, as well as to students and for prospective student tours during normal business hours. The Dean's Suite will continue to be unlocked during normal business hours and staffed to greet and direct visitors.

Student Affairs staff will work with the Visitor's Center (Enrollment Management) to arrange for prospective student tours on the weekends. The building will be open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM to accommodate weekend tours. Publicly accessible parts of the building, including classrooms will be open.

Student lounges will be open for student use and accessible with a properly coded CON student ID badge. The Clinical Simulation Learning Center will be open for student use after class hours and on weekends and accessible with a properly coded CON student ID badge. Reopening Policies and Procedures for the Clinical Simulation Learning Center are attached in **Appendix 2**.

Plan for Key Student Support Staff and Faculty Availability

Key offices that deliver services to students will be opened with in-person staffing during normal business hours. This will include both Business Office and Student Affairs staff and will be managed by the appropriate Associate/Assistant Dean. Staffing plans will continue to be equitable and considerate of meeting business office operations, student services and faculty affairs. The Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Executive Administration and Finance will continue to be present during normal business hours.

The Student Affairs offices will be open during regular business hours. The advising/student support team will have 100% in-office presence Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Staff will include the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs as well as all Academic Advisors. Student Affairs and Business Office staff will continue to support advisement and/ in-person services.

Remote work will continue to be considered for those without student-facing responsibilities who have extenuating circumstances. This must be approved by the respective Associate Dean and the Dean of the College.

Plan for Off Site Research Offices: Harrodsburg and Regency

All on-campus and off-campus research will be conducted in compliance with the Vice-President for Research Resumption of Research policies (<https://www.research.uky.edu/resources/uk-resumption-research-plan>).

For more information about the University's COVID-19 policies, please visit <https://www.uky.edu/coronavirus/spring-2022-guide>.

Appendix 1

Expectations for Entrance into UK HealthCare and/or Integrated Space

EXPECTATIONS FOR ENTRANCE INTO UK HEALTHCARE AND/OR INTEGRATED SPACE– Similar to DAILY attestation for ALL University of Kentucky students on campus there will be a heightened expectation for health profession students. RANDOM compliance checks will be conducted including wearing of masks/facial covering and physical distancing while in UK HealthCare and/or integrated space. In clinical settings the same is required plus wearing eye protection and following all CDC recommendations for safety and health including no huddles with clinical groups (pre-conf and post-conf need to be virtual). BELOW are the specific symptom questions assessed each day:

Do you have a new cough unrelated to season allergies?

Do you have new muscle aches/pain?

Do you have new shortness of breath?

Do you have a new sore throat (not associated with seasonal allergies)?

Vomiting or Diarrhea?

Do you have a fever of 100.0 or greater?

Have you experienced a loss of taste or smell?

If a student is asymptomatic and answers “NO” to all questions, they will get a UK-blue screen and are permitted on-site.

If a student has one symptom (like a cough), they will get a green screen and are permitted on campus. However, the student will be advised to follow normal processes for not reporting to work if they are too ill to work.

If a student has a fever or any combination of two symptoms, they will get a red screen. They are not permitted on site, they must notify their program lead, and they will be directed to the drive thru survey process to see if they meet the requirement for COVID testing.

SNAPSHOT view of each result screen:



A blue and green screen will allow entry to UK HealthCare facilities.

A red screen will not allow entry to UK HealthCare facilities, and more instructions will be emailed to recipients of red screens.

Appendix 2

Clinical Simulation Learning Center Policies and Procedures

Re-opening Goal: The goal of the Clinical Simulation and Learning Center (CSLC) is to return to face-to-face experiential learning while mitigating risk for developing COVID-19 and continuing to carry out the mission and vision of the CSLC. All plans and policies must follow the University, UKHC, CON, state of Kentucky and CDC guidelines.

- **Phased Approach:** Reopening will consist of three phases: planning, implementation, and re-opening. Delivery modality may change based on the evolution of the SARS-COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Phase 1: Planning
 - Create policies that meet the guidelines for re-opening.
 - Review proposed simulation schedule and maximize capacity for all rooms in the CSLC.
 - Review layout and traffic flow for entering and exiting the CSLC and rooms and revise as needed.
 - Create a staffing plan for face-to-face and virtual simulation.
 - Phase 2: Implementation
 - Faculty and staff return to CSLC to implement plan.
 - Ensure that all areas of plan are in order and revise as needed.
 - Communicate plan to all users of the CSLC.
 - Phase 3: Re-opening
 - Follow plan and policy and procedures for re-opening.
 - Communicate any suspected illness or exposure of students, faculty, or staff appropriately.
 - Be ready to implement online plan in the event of closure.
- **Policies and Procedures**
 - Screening prior to entry into the CON will be done per CON guidelines, i.e. all individuals will need to complete the university daily screener and be tested according to university policy.
 - All individuals entering the CSLC will be required to wear a face mask; NK95 masks are strongly recommended as is eye protection.
 - The CSLC Director will review all requests and make a recommendation as to the simulation modality needed to meet the objectives. Not all requests may be able to be granted.
 - All conflicting scheduling decisions will be made by the CSLC Director and the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs.
 - All courses with a lab component in the CSLC will be required to create a plan for instruction that abides by the policies and procedures outlined in this document.
 - First Aid Friday: peer tutors and faculty will be available each Friday from 10 to 3 in 401 and 403. Appointments should be made on the FAF Canvas site under the “People” tab.
 - Cleaners with dwell times are not required.
 - Linens on beds and patient gowns may be used as appropriate and necessary.

JD/KMB 8/10/21

KMB 8/11/20; *Updates* 8/14/20; 8/20/20; 9/4/20; 9/18/20; 12/17/20; 7/1/21; 8/10/21; 1/4/22