



COVID Update: RHSHS Students

Date: October 3, 2024

Purpose: This message is intended to provide current guidance related to COVID – 19 for fall semester 2024. These guidelines will be updated as needed due to a changing COVID-19 landscape.

Scope: RHSHS students

The guidelines for RHSHS students will generally mirror the guidelines established for TH employees. However, a few items may differ. The goal of these guidelines is to maintain the academic environment in the classrooms and in the clinical units as increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections within the student body could result in the need to move classes to a virtual environment, interfere with the ability of student cohorts to engage in clinical experiences, and even postpone graduation due to students’ inability to meet all requirements. By everyone doing their part, we can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our school and avoid these adverse consequences. *Let’s work together to protect our vulnerable patient populations and achieve the best outcomes for all.*

<p>Be prepared: Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines</p>	<p>Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.</p>
<p>Be prepared: Order your free COVID-19 tests</p>	<p>U.S. households will be eligible to order 4 free COVID-19 tests at COVIDTests.gov. The COVID-19 tests will detect current COVID-19 variants and can be used through the end of the year. Visit COVIDTests.gov</p>
<p>Exposure</p>	<p><i>Any student with a known exposure to COVID-19 should be masked for 10 days after exposure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known exposure: Being exposed generally means you have been within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes or more over a 24-hour period of time <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Note: Healthcare workers who during the course of their work <u>have been wearing proper PPE at all times</u> while providing

	<p>care to a COVID-19 positive patient are not considered exposed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link: CDC Guidance
Symptoms of COVID-19	<p>This list does not contain all possible symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sore throat • Cough • Congestion or runny nose • Fatigue • Muscle or body aches • Fever or chills • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Headache • New loss of taste or smell • Nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea
Symptomatic Individuals	<p>Any student who has fever and/or respiratory symptoms and/or other symptoms as listed above need to follow the protocol below. Do not assume the symptoms are related to allergies, a cold, or unrelated to COVID-19 until COVID-19 is definitively ruled out. Symptomatic individuals need to take these actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL including classes/clinical/field work/any school-related activity</u> to avoid possible transmission of illness to others. (If you come to school feeling healthy, but you start feeling sick while engaged in school activities, please leave.) 2. <u>PEOPLE TO CALL AT THE ONSET OF LISTED SYMPTOMS:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Call Student Health 484-628-8499</u> to determine if you need COVID-19 testing and next steps. Student Health will provide guidance for next steps, whether you need COVID-19 testing completed, and if you are cleared for return to classes/clinical. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note: Students may desire to also contact their Primary Care Provider to discuss COVID-19 testing and/or antiviral treatment. II. The length of the quarantine period is determined by the Student Health Office.

	<p>b. <u>Follow your program’s process/policy for reporting absences</u> and notify your program faculty of the reason that you are calling off (COVID-19 related)</p> <p>Students who report to class, clinical, or field work with respiratory symptoms or fever will be sent home.</p>
<p><u>Returning to class/clinical field work</u></p>	<p>Quarantined students are required to receive <u>two clearances</u> before returning to class or clinical.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Health will clear you to return to classes/clinical. However, the clearance from student health is only one of two required clearances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student Health may also determine that at the time of discharge from quarantine, the student is required to wear a mask for a limited period of time when returning to school. • The final clearance to return to classes will come from the Program Director <u>after the Program Director is notified about clearance from Student Health.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Program Director will verify the student’s understanding of requirements or restrictions as established by Student Health at the time of discharge planning/clearance. <p>Students may participate in virtual class or virtual clinical (if available) while on quarantine status.</p> <p>Maintain contact with your faculty regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you have been cleared by Student Health to return to school (class or clinical); • When you have been cleared by your Program Director to return to class/clinical
<p>Missed learning due to absences</p>	<p>The school is committed to helping you to the best of our ability to provide the opportunity to make up missed learning (class and clinical) while in quarantine. Each student’s situation will be assessed individually. Program faculty determine the required make-up work for missed learning experiences. Although the program will attempt to assist the student with</p>

	<p>meeting course requirements, involuntary withdrawal from the course may occur under situations such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student’s failure to satisfactorily complete required make-up work within given timeframe, • Absences that exceed the program limits per handbook, policy, or syllabi when appropriate makeup work is not possible to complete within the allotted time available within the semester. <p>Note: See grading policy for use of “Incomplete” grade</p> <p>Note: The determination for program withdrawal is made by the Program Director.</p>
Ethics	<p>Students who knowingly fail to report, engage in misreporting, omission of reporting or delayed reporting of exposure to COVID-19 or symptoms, who refuse to follow Student Health instructions, or who knowingly engage in class or clinical activities which may expose other individuals (including students, faculty, staff, or patients) to COVID-19 are in violation of the school’s conduct policy and may be subject to disciplinary action. (See conduct policy)</p>

A WORD ABOUT NOROVIRUS

Fall and winter seasons typically see an uptick in other illnesses such as norovirus.

[What is norovirus?](#) Norovirus is a very contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea.

Students with sudden onset of diarrhea and/or vomiting are required to :

1. Call Student Health 484-628-8499
2. Stay at home (no class/clinical) at least 72 hours (3 days) from the onset of symptoms) AND also be at least 48 hours symptom-free (no vomiting or diarrhea) before returning to work/school.
3. Follow Student Health guidance for return to classes.