

# UW School of Medicine – Spokane

## Safety Guidelines for Summer/Fall 2020

**Goal:** Mitigate the risk of COVID19 while continuing to provide the essential clinical skills training required by medical students.

### **Proposed guidelines:**

#### **UWSOM-Spokane faculty and staff will:**

- 1. Limit in-person activities in autumn quarter.** Clinical skills sessions such as physical exam, skills simulations and assessments, and hospital tutorials with patients will be done in person. Other sessions will be on Zoom, unless COVID activity and public health guidance changes to allow more in-person sessions.
- 2. Adhere to published room capacity limits.** Classrooms will be evaluated for capacity restrictions to adhere to public health guidelines, and these capacity limits will be clearly posted and enforced.
- 3. Assigned mentoring groups will be used for all in-person activities.** The in-person clinical skills sessions will be completed in the same group of 10 students (2 mentoring groups) which will be assigned prior to matriculation. These mentoring groups will also be used for any anatomy or other in-person sessions.
- 4. Maintain 6 feet of distance between pairs of students in physical exam labs.** Physical exam training requires contact with one individual but spacing will be maintained from other pairs of students.
- 5. Use disinfectant wipes to clean tables, mats, and doorknobs between small group sessions.**
- 6. Offer remote alternatives to in-person classroom sessions.** Students who have symptoms suggesting the possibility of COVID will not be allowed to attend in-person sessions. A remote (albeit less preferred) option and/or follow-up assignment will be given for each missed session.
- 7. Consider accommodations for in-person sessions, hospital tutorials and primary care clinics on a case by case basis.** Becoming a doctor requires skills acquisition, some of which can only be gained in person. Students who are at high personal risk of COVID should weigh the benefits and risks of being in medical school during a global pandemic. Individual concerns can be discussed with the student's college mentor and/or Foundations dean as soon as possible.

#### **All students, faculty and staff will:**

- 1. Self-assess symptoms daily, before leaving home.** More information will be given before matriculation regarding the logistics of attesting to health prior to attending in-person sessions.

2. **Stay at home if they have any symptoms of COVID or high-risk exposure.** Alternatives to in-person attendance will be offered, acknowledging that clinical skills will be more effectively learned in person.
3. **Wear a mask in all public spaces on campus.** Face coverings must be worn in all campus spaces, including classrooms.
4. **Use appropriate PPE.** A face covering will be worn for all in-person sessions. Gloves will be worn for selected exams, including the head and neck exam. Face shields or goggles are not required given the nature of planned activities, but may be worn if desired.
5. **Perform hand hygiene frequently.** This will include on entry to a building or classroom, before and after removing a mask, before and after performing any element of the physical exam, and before leaving the classroom.
6. **Eat or drink only in designated areas, at least six feet from anyone else.**