

# Trauma Surgery & Acute Care Surgery Electives

**ONLY SENIOR STUDENTS ON TRAUMA / ACS ELECTIVES FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THIRD YEAR CLERKSHIPS**

**Trauma or Acute Care Surgery Patient**  
Trauma Bay / OR / Emergent Hospital Setting<sup>1</sup>

**NOTE:** This is a **high-risk clinical environment** for exposure to COVID-19. Aerosolizing procedures are anticipated to be a significant component of the clinical experience on this elective. Participation in this elective is always voluntary. All students are encouraged to initiate a Leave of Absence request, if the clinical environment is felt to pose an unacceptable risk.

- COVID-19 Test Positive?
- Fever & URI Symptoms\*?
- COVID-19 First Degree Contact?
- Assessed by Faculty or Senior Resident as High Risk for COVID-19?

YES



NO

**MUST WEAR** Advanced PPE:  
**N-95 masks (fit tested)**  
and  
**Goggles (with circumferential seal)**  
and  
**Surgical/Trauma Gowns**  
**AT ALL TIMES<sup>2</sup>**

NO



YES

**PROCEED with due CAUTION**

Every student should always feel empowered to speak up in a **PROFESSIONAL MANNER** regarding safety concerns at any point. The clinical environment is unpredictable and there are no guarantees. When in doubt, ask for immediate clarification

Trauma / ACS **ELECTIVE** students may NOT participate in the care of **HIGH RISK PUIs\*** or patients with known active COVID-19.

The patient must wear a mask if possible & must have a clinical condition important for learning objectives.  
**Care of PUI's is voluntary and NOT required.**

\*Patients with **fever AND respiratory symptoms** are **NOT PERMITTED**. Encounters with patients who cohabit with individuals having **active** COVID-19 **are NOT PERMITTED**

\*\*EMED clerkship/elective student participation guidelines are provided SEPARATELY elsewhere.

**FOOTNOTES -**  
1 - Must adhere to CDC, TAMU, & hospital affiliate guidelines. More stringent local clinical affiliate guidelines supersede less restrictive COM guidelines & must be followed at all times  
2 – **NOTE:** Access to readily available supply of advanced PPE including properly sized/fit-tested N-95 masks, goggles with circumferential seal, and surgical/trauma gowns is absolutely essential. Inability of these measures to be provided **by the clinical affiliate** directly to the student at any time **precludes** continued involvement in this elective and the student will **withdraw immediately**.