

# VOLUNTARY Clinical Student (M2-M4) Participation: Care of Elevated-Risk & COVID Positive Patients Full Vaccination is Highly Recommended<sup>1,11,12</sup>

Do each of the following apply for the Medical Student?

Aware completion COVID-19 vaccine series is **highly recommended** as per COM definition.<sup>11, 12</sup>

Elevated-risk patient encounter is supervised and approved by a Texas A&M COM faculty member.

Medical student COVID-19 care participation checklist has been completed & signed by faculty member or designee.

An appropriate cloth or surgical mask as **required** by clinical facilities at all times (café, library, elevator, lobby, etc.).

A surgical mask or fit-tested N-95 mask is **required** for all patient encounters based on the specific clinical situation.

Utilization of a fit-tested N-95 mask is **required** for all elevated-risk patient encounters and care of COVID-19 positive patients.

Eye protection (safety glasses, goggles or face shield) is encouraged in any patient encounter (clinical affiliate may require).<sup>F</sup>

Eye protection (safety glasses, goggles or face shield) is **required** for any elevated-risk or COVID-19 positive patient encounter.<sup>F</sup>

**ALL patients must** wear a mask whenever feasible.

Each student must:

demonstrate N-95/PPE/donning/doffing proficiency prior to participation in any elevated-risk environment.

complete all 12 modules for clinical participation and understand the mechanisms to report any concerns to COM.<sup>10</sup>

understand self-monitoring and which symptoms should prompt you to leave, self-isolate, and contact your faculty.<sup>2, 3</sup>

understand CDC & TAMU safety guidelines for COVID-19 including facial coverings, hand-washing, & social distancing.<sup>3, 5, 6</sup>

Remember that you are empowered to exit any environment you deem to be unsafe.

Students are encouraged to initiate a LOA request, if the clinical environment poses an unacceptable risk.



YES

**Clinical Care Environment:  
Appropriate PPE Will Be Determined By  
Supervising Faculty and/or Clinical Affiliate  
Based on Risk Assessment Including  
Patient, Environment & Procedure**

Every student is 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 from supervising faculty and **consider wearing N-95 with full advanced PPE.**

**Participation in the care of elevated-risk and COVID positive patients is voluntary and NOT required.** Participation in this algorithm is **voluntary**. Utilization of this algorithm supersedes guidance provided by all prior clinical participation algorithms. Specific guidance for each clerkship/elective/course is NOT provided. All participation and PPE decisions are determined by a combination of faculty, affiliate, and CDC guidance for each specific clinical encounter and environment. Participation in the care of COVID-19 positive patients is allowed only with faculty approval and supervision. Appropriate PPE must be readily available/used including eye-protection, N-95 mask, gown, etc. per affiliate rules. The supervising faculty must certify that the patient has a condition essential for clinical learning/course objectives.

**Clearly Low-Risk  
Patient,  
Environment,  
& Procedure**

**Proceed  
Using  
Standard  
PPE**

NO

**Clinical Encounter Involves  
Any Elevated-Risk Variable\*:  
Patient  
Environment  
Procedure**

**! Must Do:  
N-95 mask<sup>6, B</sup>  
eye protection<sup>F</sup>  
& other PPE as  
per CDC & clinical affiliate  
requirements to **PROCEED**<sup>1</sup>**

**All Three Variables  
are Low-Risk  
Proceed Using  
Surgical mask<sup>6</sup>  
along with  
augmented eye  
protection at  
all times.<sup>C, F, G</sup>**

NO

YES

**FOOTNOTES** – All COM resources and reporting links are available at [medicine.tamu.edu/coronavirus/](http://medicine.tamu.edu/coronavirus/)

1 - Must adhere to CDC, TAMU, & hospital affiliate guidelines. **More stringent local clinical affiliate guidelines supersede less restrictive guidelines** (including COM's) & must be followed at all times

2 - See Module 2.1 in eCampus Clinical Participation Modules

3 - See Module 3.0 in eCampus Clinical Participation Modules

5 - See Module 5.0 in eCampus Clinical Participation Modules

6 - See Module 6.1 in eCampus Clinical Participation Modules

10 - See Module 10.0 in eCampus Clinical Participation Modules

11 - Completion of a COVID-19 vaccine series is defined as being more than 14 days beyond receiving the second dose of a two dose vaccine series or three weeks following a single dose vaccine.

12 - Completion of the COVID-19 vaccine series is **highly recommended**, but **NOT currently required** by COM.

A - Labor & Delivery testing guidelines may vary per clinical affiliate

B - N-95 may not be utilized until fit testing has been completed and passed

C - Participation in surgery is ok but exit during intubation or extubation

D - Participation in Labor & Delivery is governed by separate OB Algorithm

E - EMED Clerkship & Elective guidance provided per separate algorithm

F - Eyewear which provide side spray/splash/droplet protection such as safety shields, safety glasses, or goggles, beyond common glasses/spectacles, are recommended for all patient encounters and may be required by clinical affiliates

G - Clerkship students may participate in the care of **COVID NEGATIVE patients on a COVID Negative ICU** if the clinical encounter is necessary for course objectives and faculty specifies the patient is low-risk for COVID

H - High-Risk Trauma as defined in EMED Clerkship and Trauma/ACS Elective algorithms

K - Airway suctioning, sputum induction, CPR, non-invasive ventilation (e.g., BiPAP/CPAP), bronchoscopy, manual ventilation

**\* Elevated-Risk Variables Include:**

1. COVID Positive Patient
2. Intubation / Extubation
3. Other High-Risk of Aerosolization<sup>K</sup>
4. Symptoms/History Consistent with an Elevated-Risk of COVID Exposure
5. Risk variables for L&D governed by specific algorithm<sup>A, D</sup>
6. High-Risk Trauma Patient<sup>H</sup>

**NOTE: Any High-Risk Exposure requires the student to leave the clinical environment, report, and follow the appropriate clinical high-risk exposure re-entry algorithm.**