POLICY TITLE
COVID-19 Health Clearance Protocol for UNC-CH MHSPAS Students

PURPOSE AND SCOPE
The purpose of this policy is to establish a policy and procedure regarding protocols for pre-clinical phase and clinical phase students regarding methods of prevention and students who have symptoms of COVID-19, have a positive COVID-19 test or have been exposed to COVID-19.

ARC-PA STANDARD ADDRESSED
A3.01: Program policies must apply to all students, principal faculty and the program director regardless of location.
A3.02: The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply its policies and procedures to all students.
A3.08: The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply polices addressing student exposure to infections and environmental hazards before students undertake any education activities which would place them at risk. Those policies must: (a) address methods of prevention, (b) address procedures for care and treatment after exposure.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND REVIEW CYCLE
This policy is reviewed quarterly or as needed will the input from the UNC Chapel Hill Campus Health Clinical Exposure Committee and UNC Chapel Hill Health Professions Committee.

DEFINITIONS
COVID-19: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

POLICY
Please note that as the COVID pandemic evolves, all guidance and protocols are subject to change. This protocol is effective as of August 2021.

What are some methods of prevention regarding COVID-19?

A. Mask and Eye Protection During Clinicals:
   Mask requirements are in place in all indoor areas at all clinical sites regardless of vaccination status. This means that all students must wear a mask when in any building affiliated with UNC Medical Center or Regional Campuses/sites. Students should also continue to keep at least six feet of physical distance whenever possible, especially at meal/break times. Additionally, any time a student enters a patient room or another patient care area where they cannot maintain six feet of distance, they must wear eye protection in addition to their mask. Please remember this is a requirement, not a suggestion.

   - Clinical experiences at UNC Medical Center:
     - Visit UNC Medical Center’s Universal Pandemic Precaution for more information.
Clinical experiences at Regional Campuses/sites:
- If you are rotating out of UNC Health (for example at a regional campus) check in with the site education coordinator/UNC Chapel Hill MHSPAP Clinical Director to see if additional preparation is required.

B. UNC-Chapel Hill Community Standards
   Review the UNC-CH COVID-19 Community Standards

C. Review the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) COVID-19 Homepage:
UNC Chapel Hill MHSPAS students should review the NCDHHS COVID-19 homepage for up-to-date information about COVID-19, guidance, resources, and ways to slow the spread.

D. Frequently review the UNC-Chapel Hill CV-19 Dashboard:
The UNC-Chapel Hill COVID-19 Dashboard helps the university track and analyze the impact of COVID-19 on the overall health of the campus community and the ability to respond to change during these unprecedented times. The dashboard is updated daily Monday – Friday and pulls data from multiple sources to create a comprehensive illustration of health trends and operational capacities across campus, as well as stay updated on COVID-19 data relevant to campus, local and state communities.

E. Frequently review the NCDHHS COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard:
The COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard provides an overview on the metrics and capacities that the state is following. Information included on the dashboard include daily cases, daily tests, hospitalizations, contact tracing, PPE, vaccinations outbreaks and clusters.

F. SlowCOVIDNC Exposure App:
   It is recommended UNC Chapel Hill MHSPAS students download the SlowCOVIDNC Exposure Notification app, enable your Bluetooth and Exposure Notification settings, and be notified if you have been in close contact with someone who has shared a positive COVID-19 test result in the app. Once you opt-in to the notification system, you can also anonymously share a positive COVID-19 test result in the app. SlowCOVIDNC protects your identity and privacy while empowering you to protect yourself, your family, and your community.

What to do if you have possible SYMPTOMS of COVID-19:
All students are required to self-monitor for symptoms daily. Refer to the symptom monitoring list posted on the Campus Health Website:
- Do you have new muscle aches not related to another medical condition or another specific activity (e.g., due to physical exercise)?
- Do you feel like you may have a temperature of greater than 100.0°F?
- Do you have sore throat, runny nose and/or congestion not related to another medical condition (e.g., allergies)?
- Do you have a new or worsening cough that is not related to another medical condition?
- Do you have shortness of breath that is not attributable to another medical condition?
• Do you have recent (<5 days) loss of smell and taste?
• Do you have new onset of vomiting or diarrhea not related to another medical condition?

If you answer yes to any of the questions above, immediately self-isolate and contact Campus Health at 919-966-6573. Students who are symptomatic must be tested for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status. You must also notify the Director of Pre-Clinical Education (Pre-Clinical Phase Students) or Director of Clinical Education (Clinical Phase Students) and submit an UNC-CH MHSPAS Program absence request. Do not go to a Carolina Together testing site! Follow Campus Health instructions for testing. You may not attend class or clinicals until your COVID test results come back and are cleared by the Director of Pre-Clinical Education (Pre-Clinical Phase Students) or Director of Clinical Education (Clinical Phase Students). The Director of Clinical Education will notify the clinical site/preceptor regarding your estimated date of return to clinicals.

• If your symptoms resolve within 24 hours AND your PCR test result is NEGATIVE, you do not need a clearance letter from Campus Health. You may return to classes or the healthcare setting (i.e., clinical rotations) once you have been fever-free without antipyretics (fever-reducing medicines such as Tylenol) for at least 24 hours, AND you have not had any diarrhea or vomiting for at least 48 hours, regardless of the cause and are cleared by the Director of Pre-Clinical Education (Pre-Clinical Phase Students) or Director of Clinical Education (Clinical Phase Students).
• If your symptoms last longer than 24 hours, you must contact Campus Health for guidance, and you will need a clearance letter to return to class or clinicals even if you have a negative PCR test result.
• If your test result is POSITIVE, you will be required to isolate. Campus Health will provide a clearance letter when your isolation is complete.
• Please communicate with Campus Health at least one business day in advance of expected return to classes/clinicals if a clearance letter is needed.
• A copy of the clearance letter must be submitted to the Director of Pre-Clinical Education (Pre-Clinical Phase Students) or Director of Clinical Education (Clinical Phase Students) prior to returning to classes or clinicals.

What to do if you have a POSITIVE COVID-19 test:
If you have a positive test result at any time, whether you have symptoms and regardless of vaccination status, immediately self-isolate and contact Campus Health at 919-966-6573 to speak to a nurse or provider. You will need a clearance letter to return to class or clinicals. A copy of the clearance letter must be submitted to the Director of Pre-Clinical Education (Pre-Clinical Phase Students) or Director of Clinical Education (Clinical Phase Students) prior to returning to classes or clinicals. The Director of Clinical Education will notify the clinical site/preceptor regarding your estimated date of return to clinicals.

What to do if you are EXPOSED to COVID-19:
If you are exposed to COVID-19, whether at home, in the community, in class, in rotations, or at work, you must contact Campus Health at 919-966-6573 for guidance. You must also notify the Director of Pre-Clinical Education (Pre-Clinical Phase Students) or Director of Clinical Education (Clinical Phase Students). You must also be very vigilant about self-monitoring and proper use of PPE for 14 days after exposure. Contact Campus Health if you notice ANY symptoms during this time, even if very mild.
• Fully vaccinated students may be allowed to continue attending class and/or clinicals as long as asymptomatic.
  - If the exposure was in the community (e.g., social gathering), you will need to test on Day 6 (day 5-7 acceptable) to detect asymptomatic conversion. A clearance letter is not needed if your test result is negative.
  - If the exposure was with a positive household member, you will need to stay out of class/clinicals until you have a NEGATIVE baseline test result. A clearance letter is not needed if your baseline test result is negative. However, additional testing is needed in this situation given the higher risk of transmission in households.
    ▪ If the student can separate from the positive household member, they should be tested on day 6 (day 5 or 7 acceptable) after last exposure.
    ▪ If student is unable to separate from the positive household member, they should be tested on day 6 (day 5 or 7 acceptable) & 12 (day 11-13 acceptable) after initial/baseline negative test.
  - If symptoms develop during this 14-day period after exposure you must immediately stop attending class or clinical rotations, isolate and seek medical attention. Contact Campus Health at 919-966-6573. The student will need a clearance letter from Campus Health to return to classes/clinicals even if you have a negative test result. A copy of the clearance letter must be submitted to the Director of Pre-Clinical Education (Pre-Clinical Phase Students) or Director of Clinical Education (Clinical Phase Students) prior to returning to classes or clinicals.

• Students who have been granted a vaccine exemption will be required to quarantine after an exposure (10 days from last exposure if able to test on day 6 after exposure; 14 days if unable to test on day 6). If test on day 6 is negative, the student should continue to self-monitor for symptoms for an additional 4 days. If symptoms develop, patient should isolate and seek medical attention. Campus Health will provide a clearance letter to be able to return to classes/clinicals. A copy of the clearance letter must be submitted to the Director of Pre-Clinical Education (Pre-Clinical Phase Students) or Director of Clinical Education (Clinical Phase Students) prior to returning to classes or clinicals. The Director of Clinical Education will notify the clinical site/preceptor regarding your estimated date of return to clinicals.

• If any post-exposure test is POSITIVE, the student will be required to isolate. Campus Health will provide a clearance letter when isolation is complete. A copy of the clearance letter must be submitted to the Director of Pre-Clinical Education (Pre-Clinical Phase Students) or Director of Clinical Education (Clinical Phase Students) prior to returning to classes or clinicals. The Director of Clinical Education will notify the clinical site/preceptor regarding your estimated date of return to clinicals.

PUBLISHED
• UNC PA Program Policies and Procedures web page: https://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/unc-pa/students/policies-procedures/
• UNC PA Program Student Handbook

HISTORY OF APPROVAL AND UPDATES
Initially approved by Program Director, May 2020