

As a reminder, if you are wearing a mask + eye protection, this is a **LOW RISK exposure, regardless of the patient's COVID status.**

The UNC SOM wants to ensure that students feel safe in their clinical settings. Therefore the SOM has instituted a policy that **participation in the care of COVID positive or suspected positive patients is not expected of any student and is only permitted for Individualization Phase students, when PPE is sufficient to allow student involvement and with specific opt in by student in advance.** The table below outlines specific examples of patients who students may be asked to care for to help provide additional clarity around this policy.

In addition, if you have any questions regarding your safety and risk of exposure to COVID, do not hesitate to reach out directly to your course directors or submit your concern via the SOM [mistreatment form](#). In addition, please report any events where proper COVID protocols are not being adhered to using the SAFE reporting system from the hospital intranet page.

NOTE: In all of the following examples, it is assumed that the student is wearing a mask + eye protection in accordance with UNC Health's policy on universal pandemic precautions.

| Example | Allowed (✓) Prohibited (X)* |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Patient has a pending COVID test and... | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is asymptomatic (i.e. being tested due to an upcoming procedure or hospital admission, being tested due to a recent exposure) | ✓ |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has fever, chills, myalgias, and/or other symptoms of COVID likely attributable to another cause (based on assessment of case by preceptor) | ✓ |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has fever, chills, myalgias, and/or other symptoms of COVID without another likely etiology | X * |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has fever, chills, myalgias, and/or other symptoms of COVID without another likely etiology after assessment by preceptor | X * |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient has tested positive for COVID | X * |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient previously tested positive for COVID but is now asymptomatic x 3 days (and beyond 10 days from symptom onset) OR has had 2 negative PCR tests at least 24 hours apart | ✓ |

* only permitted for Individualization Phase students, when PPE is sufficient to allow student involvement and with specific opt in by student in advance