

COVID-19: Return to Field, Clinical or Internship Placement Guidelines

Faculty supervisors will provide to the Chair of the Department a copy of the site's COVID-19 return to work health and safety/management plan. The Department Chair and the practicum supervisor will review the site plan prior to the student being authorized to begin practicum. The practicum supervisor will also review the site plan with students attending practicum at that site. Students are expected to adhere to the site's expectations, and this adherence will become part of the student's performance evaluations at the site.

Faculty will review with all practicum students and supervisors the following websites:

- How to protect yourself:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>
- How to safely put on and take off a face covering:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- How to physically distance
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

Faculty will then discuss and practice these skills with students, providing feedback, until mastery has been achieved.

Symptoms Based Reporting

If a student is completing practicum in the Kalamazoo area (defined as an approximate radius of 50 miles of Kalamazoo; if in doubt whether the practicum is "in the Kalamazoo area," please seek guidance from the chair of the Department) has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or develops symptoms, the student should make an appointment at Sindecuse Health Center on WMU's campus to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19. If the student is asked to self-quarantine from the site in accordance with their plan, they are required to make a tele-health visit at Sindecuse to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19.

Western Michigan University students who test positive for COVID-19 or develop any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, and/or fever must notify the faculty member supervising the practicum and field site and schedule a telehealth visit at Sindecuse.

Student must self-quarantine after first experiencing the symptoms and seek immediate medical attention with moderate to severe symptoms.

Student can return to their fieldwork site when:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery of the symptoms (no longer has a fever without fever-reducing medicine **AND** improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed since experiencing the initial symptoms

The field site may have more stringent guidelines the student must follow to return to a field placement, such as laboratory-confirmed testing. The cost of the testing is the student's responsibility. If a student has a positive COVID-19 laboratory-confirmed test, the student must

report these results to the faculty member supervising the practicum. The student should ultimately cease home isolation in collaboration with a healthcare provider and rules/regulations of the state and local health departments.

Student participation in any field placement is voluntary. If a student is unable or unwilling to participate in the assigned activities, we will do our best to make alternative placement arrangements or activities. However, a timeline and location for a new field placement is dependent upon alternative site availability, among other things. Also, we cannot guarantee that alternative sites will be available and that suitable activities for accruing practicum and supervised fieldwork hours can be identified (due, in part, to requirements in place from certifying and licensing bodies).

Positive COVID-19 Test – No Symptoms

If a student provides the supervising faculty member with a laboratory-confirmed positive COVID-19 test and is not reporting any symptoms; the student should not return to the field site until:

- 10 days have passed since the diagnostic test, if they have not experienced any symptoms since the positive test

If the student starts to develop symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, and/or fever):

- the student must follow the symptoms-based guidelines listed above in this policy.

Information in this policy is based on the latest information posted on CDC's Return-to-Work Criteria for Healthcare Workers

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>