

## ***COVID-19***

All MedStar Health associates and other “Covered Individuals” identified below under “Scope of Policy” must be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19 unless they request and receive approval for a medical contraindication or religious exemption. All Covered Individuals required to be vaccinated must show proof of receipt of the COVID-19 vaccination in a manner acceptable and in accordance with the schedule required by MedStar Health.

### **Scope of Policy**

The vaccine requirement in this policy applies to all MedStar Health Associates (including employed physicians and other credentialed individuals, employed residents and fellows), private medical staff members, other non-employed credentialed professionals, non-employed affiliated residents and fellows, board members, volunteers, students, contractors, and all vendors who work for, provide services to or otherwise do business with MedStar Health or any of its subsidiaries while on MedStar premises (collectively referred to as “Covered Individuals”). The vaccine requirement applies to all MedStar Health Associates, including those who may be currently designated as 100% remote. Professionals visiting MedStar Health premises for short-term events (e.g., consultants to Administration, Grand Round presenters) are excluded from this policy.

COVID-19 is a pandemic of respiratory disease that spreads from person-to-person. COVID-19 can cause mild to severe illness; most severe illness occurs in older adults. Nevertheless, people of all ages are at risk of contracting COVID-19, and people with severe chronic medical conditions including, but not limited to, heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes, are at a higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness. Additionally, healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 have a higher risk of exposure. Students understand that the Clinical Facilities may have patients recovering from COVID-19.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to:

- o Fever (subjective or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) or chills
- o Cough
- o Congestion
- o Sore throat
- o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- o Diarrhea
- o Nausea or vomiting
- o Fatigue
- o Headache
- o Muscle or body aches
- o New loss of taste or smell
- o Or otherwise feeling unwell.

Reported illnesses may range from very mild (including some with no reported symptoms) to severe, including death. If a student feels sick, the student agrees **not** to go to the Clinical

Facilities and the student will stay home for the period recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Medstar Washington Hospital Center (MWHC).

Additionally, while participating in the Program, students agree to take all necessary precautions recommended by the CDC and adopted by MWHC to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to, washing hands thoroughly and often, avoiding gatherings of ten or more people, and wearing a mask to cover their mouth and nose. Current guidance includes universal masking, eye protection with all patient encounters, transmission-based precautions, frequent hand hygiene, physical distancing and other prevention strategies as needed. Guidance is subject to change without notice.

Unvaccinated students are not permitted to perform any exam on confirmed COVID-19 positive or confirmed patients under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19. Fully vaccinated students (at least 2-weeks after the documented second dose) are not permitted to perform any exam on a confirmed COVID-19 patient but ARE permitted to perform an exam on a patient under investigation (PUI). MedStar Washington Hospital Center strongly encourages COVID-19 vaccines to all student providers. Both vaccines have equal efficacy (94-95%) and similar side effects and safety profiles. MWHC provides Pfizer and Moderna vaccines at no cost to student providers.

Students are required to wear a Level 1 “surgical mask” during all classroom and laboratory experiences and practice social distancing as much as possible as recommended by the CDC. Students are not permitted to wear cloth (homemade) masks during any class, laboratory, or clinical activity. The face mask must fit completely over the nose, under the chin, and snugly against the sides of his/her face.

Students are required to wear an N95 respirator and MWHC approved eye protection for any PUI patient interactions. Students must wear a Level 1 “surgical mask” and face shield in clinic when interacting with a non-PUI patient. Any student who does not comply with the PPE face-covering requirement will be subjected to disciplinary action as a failure to comply with the MWHC MISR clinical dress code policy.

Voluntary COVID-19 testing is available for asymptomatic students who request COVID-19 testing for any reason. It is important to note, voluntary student testing does not replace existing infection prevention protocols, including the need to continue universal masking and proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), physical distancing, and hand hygiene.

### **Voluntary Testing Process**

Voluntary COVID-19 student testing will use the antigen COVID-19 test, with results available within 48 hours. Students seeking voluntary testing will contact the Associate and Provider COVID-19 Wellness Testing Call Center at 877-384-3530, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., to schedule their testing during non-working hours. The Associate and Provider COVID-19 Wellness Testing Call Center will schedule the testing and direct students to the testing location within the hospital.

At this time, in the interest of ensuring operational efficiency during the pilot phase, the voluntary testing is only available to associates, providers, and contractors whose primary work location is MedStar Washington Hospital Center.

### **Associate and Provider COVID-19 Wellness Testing Center**

The Associate and Provider Wellness COVID-19 Testing appointments can be scheduled by calling 877-384-3530.

### **Reporting of Test Results**

Test results will be provided to the student within 48 hours of test completion. Asymptomatic students should continue their regular clinical/class schedule while they await their test results (applies only to wellness testing or asymptomatic testing). Students with positive COVID-19 test results will be contacted by Occupational Health and provided guidance for the next steps, which include not reporting to class/clinic and additional testing. Those with negative results will be contacted by a text messaging chatbot tool. Results will also be available on the myMedStar Patient Portal at **myMedStar.org**.

Importantly, all students should continuously self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and contact the Occupational Health Call Center at 844-354-3705 should any symptoms present.

Unvaccinated MWHC MISR students are **NOT** permitted to image any MedStar ER trauma patients (Code Yellow, burns, etc.) at this time. As we continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic, the Director of Radiology Education and the MWHC Supervisor of Diagnostic Radiology will decide at a later time when unvaccinated students can image MedStar ER patients who are not under any PUI/COVID-19 precautions.

Students agree to abide by any and all specific requests by the School and the Clinical Facilities for their safety and the safety of others, as well as any and all of the School's and the Clinical Facilities' rules and policies applicable to all activities related to this Program. Students understand that the School and the Clinical Facilities reserve the right to exclude student participation in this Program if participation or behavior is deemed detrimental to the safety or welfare of others.

MWHC MISR students and faculty will complete the appropriate COVID-19 Attestation before attending any classroom, clinical, or laboratory activities. COVID-19 attestations must be completed within five (5) minutes upon arrival before doing any other activity according to DC HELC. Students who do not complete their COVID-19 attestation within the required time will be subject to disciplinary action as listed below.

- Initial Warnings (1<sup>st</sup> occurrence)
- Progressive Suspension (1-3 days [2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> occurrences])
- Dismissal (5<sup>th</sup> occurrence)

The MWHC COVID Attestations includes the following steps:

- ASK Students, faculty, and staff should be asked about whether the student or staff member has experienced the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

- o Fever (subjective or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) or chills
  - o Cough
  - o Congestion
  - o Sore throat
  - o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - o Diarrhea
  - o Nausea or vomiting
  - o Fatigue
  - o Headache
  - o Muscle or body aches
  - o New loss of taste or smell
  - o Or otherwise feeling unwell.
- Students, faculty, and staff are asked if they have been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19.
  - LOOK: School staff should visually inspect each student, faculty, and staff member for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.

If a student, faculty, or staff member reports any of the above symptoms or is confirmed to have COVID-19, the student, faculty, or staff member must not return to school until:

- They complete the appropriate isolation period:
  - o 72 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g., Motrin, Tylenol) and respiratory symptoms have improved;
  - AND
  - o Depending on severity of illness at least ten to twenty days after symptoms first appeared, whichever is later; OR
- They have a negative COVID-19 test, and meet standard criteria to return to school after an illness; OR
- They have been cleared from isolation per MWHC Occupational Health, and/or their healthcare provider or DC Health instructions.

If any student, faculty, or staff member has been in close contact with a person who is positive for COVID-19, then the student or staff member must not enter the facility until cleared by Occupational Health.

If any student, faculty, or staff member is awaiting a symptomatic COVID-19 test result, then the student, faculty, or staff member must not enter the facility cleared by MWHC Occupational Health. If they test positive, then they should immediately begin a self-quarantine and seek further guidance from their healthcare provider, MWHC Occupational Health and/or local Public Health Department.

Dismissal Criteria:

If a student, faculty, or staff member develops a fever or other signs of illness, the school must follow the above exclusion criteria regarding the exclusion and dismissal of students, faculty, and staff.

- The Director of Radiology Education will send the student/faculty/staff member home immediately or isolate until it is safe to go home, refer the student to Occupational Health for guidance, and follow cleaning and disinfecting procedures for any area, materials, and equipment with which the student/faculty/staff member was in contact.

## EXPOSURE REPORTING, NOTIFICATIONS, & DISINFECTION

### Step 1: Reporting to DC Health

MWHC Occupational Health reports any communicable disease exposure to the MWHC MISR Director of Radiology. MWHC Occupational Health will notify the Director of Radiology Education if the student, faculty, and/or staff is cleared to return to work or not cleared to return to work. Occupational Health will identify a student, faculty, or staff member who has tested COVID-19 positive to the Director or Radiology Education. the MWHC MISR established plan for COVID-19 exposures is as follows:

1. MWHC MISR will notify DC Health by emailing [coronavirus@dc.gov](mailto:coronavirus@dc.gov) with the following information:
  - “COVID-19 Consult” in the email subject line
  - Name and direct phone number of the best point of contact for DC Health to return the call
  - Short summary of incident/situation
2. An investigator from DC Health will follow-up within 24 hours to all appropriately submitted email notifications. Decisions on the timeline of exclusion and any other responses to a COVID-19 exposure will be determined by DC Health.

### Step 2: Communication to Students, Faculty, and Staff

The Director of Radiology Education will communicate in a way that protects the privacy of individuals and alert the students, faculty, and staff to a COVID-19 case. Communication is to be completed, per DC Health directive and will include:

- Notification to those students/faculty and staff in close contact with the individual including the requirement to quarantine for 14 days,
- Notification to the entire program that there was a COVID-19 positive case, those impacted have been told to quarantine, and steps that will be taken (e.g., cleaning and disinfection),
- Education about COVID-19, including the signs and symptoms, available at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov>;
- Referral to the Guidance for Contacts of a Person Confirmed to have COVID-19, available at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov>; and
- Information on options for COVID-19 testing in the District of Columbia, available at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testing>.

DC Health will instruct schools on dismissals and other safety precautions in the event a known COVID-19 individual came in close contact with others at school.

### Step 3: Cleaning, Sanitization, and Disinfection of Affected Spaces

In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case in a student, faculty, or staff member, the MWHC MISR follow all steps outlined by DC Health as well as the cleaning, disinfection, and sanitization guidance from the CDC, linked here:

- If seven days or fewer have passed since the person who is sick used the facility, follow these steps:
  - 1) Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
  - 2) Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
  - 3) Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before cleaning or disinfecting to allow respiratory droplets to settle.
  - 4) Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as classrooms, bathrooms, and common areas.
- If more than seven days have passed since the person who is sick used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary. Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.

#### ***COVID-19 CONTINGENCY PLAN***

In the event, the DMV area is mandated to shelter in place the MWHC MISR contingencies for pandemic scenarios include:

- Halt all in-class lecture and switch to synchronous online course content delivered via Microsoft Teams to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19
- Hybrid on-campus laboratory activities with no patient contact by appointment to practice and test for laboratory simulation.
- Pause all clinical-based learning activities and implement supplemental software during a shelter in place mandate
- MWHC MISR Faculty will work remotely during the shelter in place order to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19