

## COVID-19 Guidelines for Student Testing & Monitoring, Infection Control/PPE Usage and Patient Care\*\*

Students of the medical curriculum should follow the below for guidelines on Symptom Monitoring, Testing Guidelines, and Testing Procedures. Please note that instructions and required PPEs differ dependent on whether the students have educational sessions at the college or at one of the clinical facilities. For students in the clinical years, please take note of the specific **Infection Control/PPE Usage and Patient Care** that apply to you while you are in the clinical setting.

### 1. Symptom, Monitoring & Testing Guidance

- I. On a **daily** basis, monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms (high fever > 37.8 C, cough, upper respiratory track congestion, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat, and fatigue).
  - If you feel unwell, or suspect COVID-19 symptoms, stay home and immediately contact your Clerkship Director/Course Director, and Dr. Mohamud Verjee (mov2002), Division of Student Affairs immediately for further instructions.
- II. If you have **symptoms** consistent with possible COVID-19, even if mild.
  - **DO NOT** report to HMC or Sidra facilities **or** the medical school.
  - **FIRST SELF-ISOLATE THEN:** inform your Clerkship Director/Course Director and Dr. Mohamud Verjee (mov2002), Division of Student Affairs for further instructions. A rapid antigen test (RAT) (results within 2 hours) at a PHCC or private clinic will confirm your status of infection. A full PCR test is not a requirement except if you are travelling abroad.
- III. If you are **asymptomatic** and have had a known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 at **home, school/college, hospital, or clinic (either patient or team member)**
  - You **MUST** inform your Clerkship Director/Course Director, and Dr. Mohamud Verjee (mov2002), Division of Student Affairs for further instructions.
  - You may require a rapid antigen test (RAT) to confirm your health status.
- IV. The Government of Qatar now provides a booster dose of Covid-19 to all persons with one of the recommended vaccines recognized by the CDC and WHO. It requires those who have received two Covid-19 doses to attend for a booster shot six months after the second Covid-19 shot, and certainly within a year from the second shot.
  - A COVID-19 Booster Drive is currently in progress at the CDC from January 11-15, 2022. All students will be contacted to assess their booster status. If a booster is required, you will be scheduled for an appointment at the CDC in the next 5 days. If you have previously arranged an appointment for a booster shot through your registered PHCC health center, or at the QF Clinic in Education City, keep your appointment.

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- i. Once completed, please forward a copy of your vaccination certificate, or a screenshot of your updated Ehteraz screen to Dr. Mohamud Verjee or Ms. Jyothi Rosario by email.
- All students preparing to travel to the United States for Sub-I's or electives must complete this task as a requirement of WCM-NYP to protect themselves as fully as possible, by January 31, 2022, at the latest.

## 2. Testing Procedures and Categories

### I. Testing Procedures:

**PHCC Clinic Testing:** 24 PHCC medical centers now undertake rapid antigen tests (RAT) as well as over 100 private clinics at a cost of 50qar.

**HMC Staff Clinic Testing:** **FIRST SELF-ISOLATE THEN:** inform your Clerkship Director/Course Director and Dr. Mohamud Verjee (mov2002), Division of Student Affairs for further instructions. A rapid antigen test (RAT) (results within 2 hours) at a PHCC or private clinic will confirm your status of infection. A full PCR test is not a requirement except if you are travelling abroad.

Please see the following for MoPH Testing Guidelines:

<https://covid19.moph.gov.qa/EN/covid19-testing/Pages/FAQs.aspx>

### II. Testing Categories:

Students will fall into four categories based on the results of the PCR test (nasopharyngeal swab testing) and the presence or absence of COVID-19 symptoms:

a. **Positive test and asymptomatic**

Students will be required to self-isolate at home.

Please note that according to HMC policy students who have tested positive need approval from infection control department **to restart their rotations in HMC.**

This is to make sure that they are no longer infectious. They can contact the infection control practitioner of the area where they will be restarting their assignment or during off hours, they can contact the on-call infection control practitioner. The mobile numbers of the area infection control practitioner and the on-call infection control practitioner is available with unit head nurse or charge nurse.

b. **Positive test and symptomatic**

Follow the direction provided by your treating physician

c. **Negative test and asymptomatic**

An assessment will be made based on the degree of risk (i.e. one contact with a patient vs continuing close family contact) - *You may need retesting and continued isolation at home.*

**d. Negative test and symptomatic**

An assessment will be made based on the degree of risk (i.e. one contact with a patient vs continuing close family contact) - *You may need retesting and continued isolation at home.*

### ***3. Infection Control and PPE Usage***

#### **College Dress Code**

At a minimum, students must wear:

- Face Mask at all times in open and closed spaces
- Face shield, when directed

Additionally, students must wear other PPE as required by the area that they are being taught, which may include wearing of gowns and gloves.

#### **Hospital Dress Code**

- Scrubs
- Short medical student coat
- Do not wear artificial fingernails
- Avoid jewelry (watch, rings, necklaces, long earrings)
- Avoid using your stethoscope due to the risk of infectious diseases transmission (utilize plastic stethoscopes located inside patients' rooms)

#### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Follow the precautions mentioned on the isolation precaution poster outside the patient room**

**a. No Direct Patient Care**

(examples include hospital wards, conference rooms, cafeteria, hallways)

- Recommended face mask (at all times in open and closed spaces)
  - personalized cloth masks should not be worn
- Face shield (non-clinical areas: face shield is option as per present HMC policy)

**b. Direct Patient Care (low-risk patients) – Follow the precautions mentioned on the isolation precaution poster outside the patient room**

- **Mask (N-95) (Not a surgical mask!)**
- Face shield
- Gloves

**c. Direct Patient Care – Follow the precautions mentioned on the isolation precaution poster outside the patient room**

(High-Risk Patients such as TB, Chickenpox, ESBL, MDR infections)

- **Mask N-95 (Not a surgical mask!)**
- Face shield
- Gloves
- Gowns
- Head covers
- Shoe covers

**PPE Reusage Guidance**

- N95 masks can be used on an extended basis or re-used depending on the clinical area of work.
  - **N-95 extended use:** Wearing the same N95 mask for repeated close contact encounters with several patients, without removal, can be used for the whole shift. The extended use ends when the health care worker leaves the care setting/ exposure environment.
  - **N-95 re-use:** N95 Masks may be **re-used** up to five (5) times if **covered** by a surgical mask or face shield provided the N95 mask is clean and not wet or soiled. Cover the N95 mask with paper towels and place it inside a breathable paper bag with five (5) checkbox notations on the outside of the bag.
- Face shields can be reused after cleaning and thorough disinfection.

# COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines

## PPE Guidelines

July 2020



### Hospital Dress



- ✓ Use scrubs, short medical student coat. Avoid jewelry (watch, rings, necklaces, long earrings, and artificial nails)
- ✓ Caution against use of your own stethoscope - reusable stethoscopes should be available inside patients' rooms

### PPE



#### Non Direct Patient Care

- On hospital ward
- Conference room
- Cafeteria
- Hallways

- ✓ Mask (Surgical)
- ✓ Face shield



#### Direct Patient Care: Low-Risk Patients

- ✓ N-95 Mask (not surgical mask!!)
- ✓ Face shield
- ✓ Gloves



#### Direct Patient Care: High-Risk Patients

- TB
- Chickenpox
- ESBL
- MDR infections
- Suspected COVID-19

- ✓ N-95 Mask (not surgical mask!!)
- ✓ Face shield
- ✓ Gloves



- ✓ Gowns
- ✓ Head covers
- ✓ Shoe covers



**Also do not forget to regularly wash your hands.**

#### 4. COVID-19 Patient Care Guidance

- a. *Presently at Hamad General Hospital the following areas are designated as COVID19 areas:*
  - i. *Trauma and Emergency Department – 1<sup>st</sup> floor High Acuity Area, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Isolation rooms*
  - ii. *Old Emergency Department – Male Fever Clinic, Female Fever Clinic, GCC Male fever clinic, Male Confirmed area (old resuscitation room), Female Confirmed area (Old trauma room), Isolation rooms*
  - iii. *MICU 1 (previous SICU near operating theaters)*
- a. Students **SHOULD** follow the PPE usage guidelines rigorously as direct care for patients may not identify a COVID-19 positive person. However, students **SHOULD NOT** be involved in direct care for patients with documented or suspected COVID-19 infections. If you are asked to do so, you **MUST** call your Clerkship Director immediately before any patient contact is made.
- b. Any student directly exposed to a patient who subsequently found to have COVID-19 **MUST** inform their Clerkship Director, and Dr. Mohamud Verjee (mov2002) in the Division of Student Affairs for further instructions (please see section 3 on Symptom Monitoring and Testing Guidance)
- c. Based on current data, those most at risk for getting severely ill from COVID-19 and its complications are those with compromised immune systems; underlying co-morbid conditions e.g. diabetes, HTN, obesity, and cancer as well as individuals over the age of 60. (Please refer to the [CDC updated and expanded list](#) of who is at increased risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-19).
- d. If you have a health condition which puts you at high risk, or you have a unique circumstance, such as contact with an immune-compromised family member, please inform Dr. Mohamud Verjee (mov2002), Division of Student Affairs, who will liaise with the relevant Assistant Dean, Medical Education, to find an alternate educational experience.

**\*\* This is a living document that is continually updated on the basis of evidence-based data and information from our affiliated hospitals.**

**It can be accessed at the following link**

<https://wcmq.box.com/s/lzo85y6ifn5c89zjoiwzxicn46ch57cu>

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