June 8, 2020
Return to Clerkship: student involvement in patient care

These guidelines are intended to provide safety for patients, physicians and learners. A secondary goal is to avoid the unnecessary use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by individuals who are not essential to the care of an individual patient.

- Students will be subject to the daily screening process required for all health care workers
- Students will be expected to continuously wear a procedure mask in all patient care areas and any other areas where physical distancing requirements cannot be achieved, as directed by the preceptor
- Students will be expected to perform regular hand hygiene: alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) is the preferred method for hand hygiene; however, there are times when handwashing with soap and water is required or availability of ABHR is limited. Ensure friction and wet time for a minimum of 20 seconds when using soap and water
- Students are expected to have completed both an online module (https://ecme.ucalgary.ca/covid-19-cme-resources/topics/ppe/) for training in the use of PPE and completed an observed practice session in the proper use of PPE
- It should be recognized that students may require supervision in the use of PPE, particularly at the beginning of their return to clerkship and at the beginning of a new rotation
  - Whenever students are donning/doffing PPE they are encouraged to ask for observation and feedback (from any experienced health care provider)
- Students will comply with all requirements for PPE for an individual patient as directed by the most responsible physician or preceptor
- Students may provide routine care to patients with known or suspected COVID with the use of PPE as directed by the most responsible physician or preceptor
- Students will not be directly involved with any patient that requires the use of an N95 mask on the part of the care provider
- Students who are exposed to a patient with COVID-19 while not wearing appropriate PPE will complete the Healthcare Worker Self-Assessment form (https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/HWAssessLanding.aspx) to determine if testing is required, to receive further information and to determine if self-isolation is required
- Guidelines for student involvement in patient care may change as the COVID situation evolves; communications will be directed from UME to all students and clerkship leaders when changes occur