Limpkins

Wow — first week of September already gone! Time is certainly flying. I hope you had a good long weekend. The update this time is largely reminders of things that you have heard from me before, however, please ensure you are aware of what is in here, mainly the things around COVID questions and reporting.

COVID Reporting

Obviously, the playing field is changing all of the time. Nevertheless, the basic premise of the approach that we want you to be taking in the clinical environment is to be safe, while still allowing you to optimize your role on the patient care team and to benefit your learning.

If you have any questions about your safety as it relates to COVID, please contact Workplace Health and Safety (WHS). We have been given a primary contact person, Andres Nino:

Andres Nino
Workplace Health & Safety Advisor -
Calgary Zone
Alberta Health Services
Office: 587-774-7462
Andres.Nino@albertahealthservices.ca

As you are likely aware, there was a COVID outbreak at the PLC recently on two units. Contact tracing takes place quickly to identify anyone (patients, family, staff) who could be at risk. If you become aware that there is a possibility that you were exposed to COVID, you should phone WHS. After you have spoken with the WHS office, please shoot a quick email to me (please also copy our program supervisor for clerkship, Sibyl Tai) with the outcome of that conversation. This will allow us to keep track of the frequency of required contact for our students with WHS and also help us to learn their approach to COVID related issues. Please keep in mind that this is not intended for the UME to ‘override’ any information that you are given from WHS; while I’ve learned a lot about COVID procedures over the past few months, I’m not the expert. WHS has the experts that can give you the right information about how to proceed after a possible exposure.

Please continue to attend closely to hand hygiene, mask continuously and use appropriate PPE as guided by your preceptors. Please continue to complete the daily ‘fit for work’ screening online.

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Remember that there are links to a lot of COVID-related information on the MD Program website.

N95 Update

You may see AHS bulletins about N95 fit testing being available through AHS. AHS is retesting staff as the N95 masks most staff were fit on (as well as the masks we fit test UME students on) are now or will soon be out of stock. Please note at this time refit testing is NOT needed for most students. For COVID related issues, you do not need to be fit tested on the new masks: if there is a patient where N95 masking is required due to COVID concerns, medical students should not be involved in that patient’s care.

You may rarely be involved with patient care in situations where a N95 mask is needed, completely unrelated to COVID. At the beginning of your rotation please ask your preceptor if it is likely that you would need to use an N95 for non-COVID reasons (only) during the rotation. If the preceptor feels that this is likely, you should check with the unit to see if the N95 mask you were fit tested on is still available. If the mask you were fit tested on is no longer available, then you can go for retesting. Information on how to go about being refit tested can be found at [https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/hr/Page7269.aspx](https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/hr/Page7269.aspx). If you do get re-fit tested, please send a picture of your new fit-card to immune@ucalgary.ca.

EPA Assessments

Please keep going (or get started…) on the completion of your EPA assessments. Not much else to say on that one!

Take care

KB

Kevin Busche MD BSc FRCPC
Assistant Professor
Department of Clinical Neurosciences

Assistant Dean
Undergraduate Medical Education
Cumming School of Medicine
University of Calgary

UME: 403 210 3841 | RGH: 403 943 3214
kdbusche@ucalgary.ca