



COVID-19 Return-to-Campus-Activity Planning Guidelines Interim Plan (Fall 2021)

Refer to Prevention and Management of COVID-19 on the LSUHSC Campus Website dated July 27, 2021
(<https://911.lsuhschool.edu/coronavirus/campus-guidelines.aspx>)

I. Overall Goals and Safety Principles for Resumption of On Campus Activity

Educational: Continue educational programs without interruption while maintaining safe practices for students and faculty. Remain in compliance with nursing and other regulatory and accreditation standards.

Clinical Nursing Education and Faculty Practice: Continue critical clinical/practicum and faculty practice operations without interruption while maintaining safe practices for students and faculty. Remain in compliance with nursing and other regulatory and accreditation standards. Resume the provision of all clinical/practicum and faculty practice services as possible in collaboration with our practice partners/clinical affiliations, while maintaining patient, faculty, students, and staff safety.

Clinical Simulation and Clinical Laboratory Education: Continue clinical simulation and clinical laboratory skills education without interruption while maintaining safe practices for students and faculty. Remain in compliance with nursing and other regulatory and accreditation standards. Faculty, staff, and students must comply with the Nursing Skills and Technology Center COVID-19 guidelines posted at <https://nursing.lsuhschool.edu/NSTC/>.

Research: Support and promote new research opportunities related to COVID-19, and resume non-COVID-19 research as the safety of faculty, students, and research subjects/participants can be ensured.

II. Nursing Faculty, Staff and Student Safety:

- **Physical distancing, use of masks and frequent handwashing** will be the norms of behavior on campus for all work, study, or any other activities. Supervisors will encourage their faculty and staff to role model safe behaviors, and will frequently remind them as well as their students to regularly practice these measures. Specific guidance on mask wearing is located at: <https://911.lsuhschool.edu/coronavirus/campus-guidelines.aspx>.
- **Faculty and staff are expected to work on campus for at least 75% of the work week.**
- **Isolation of symptomatic employees and students** will be expected, and **contact tracing** will be done to identify and isolate LSUHSC faculty, staff, and students who are at risk due to exposures on campus.
- Faculty, staff, and students will report symptoms or positive test results as soon as possible using the **on-line reporting system** (<https://911.lsuhschool.edu/coronavirus/selfreporting.aspx>).
- Supervisors will remind their employees to **stay home if they have any symptoms or were recently exposed**, and to use the on-line reporting system.
- **Testing** protocols should follow the guidance outlined in: <https://911.lsuhschool.edu/coronavirus/campus-guidelines.aspx>. Testing can be scheduled via: <https://911.lsuhschool.edu/coronavirus/gettested.aspx>.

III. General Nursing Student Education

1. General Principles

- The Interim Assistant Dean for Student Services, in collaboration with the Associate Deans and Program Directors, will conduct virtual check-ins with the students to monitor their concerns now and likely continuing into the fall semester. Student concerns will be monitored and reported to the appropriate administrator or respective nursing school committee or council.
- Students on campus will be expected to wear mask, to adhere to physical distancing, and to practice good hand hygiene. Faculty, staff and the nursing leadership team should role model and remind students about the importance of these safety measures.
- Resumption of extracurricular student activities must follow the guidance outlined in <https://911.lsuhscc.edu/coronavirus/campus-guidelines.aspx>. All student extracurricular activities must be approved through the Interim Assistant Dean for Student Services and Dean's Office *prior to engagement* of the activity. Appropriate documentation of all extracurricular student activities must be completed ([https:// www.lsuhscc.edu/CommunityOutreach/](https://www.lsuhscc.edu/CommunityOutreach/)).

2. Didactic Nursing Courses and Continuing Nursing Education Activities

- **General Guideline.** The educational needs of the nursing school academic programs in the BSN, MSN, DNP, DNS, and PhD programs vary. The educational program guidance on class format will be determined by the academic Program Director in collaboration with the respective Associate Dean to ensure that we provide a safe learning environment that meets the academic, regulatory and accreditation requirements. Class size enrollment will dictate the appropriate safe format to conduct a didactic nursing education course. Class schedules must remain as scheduled unless approved by the appropriate Associate Dean. Virtual lectures should be recorded and posted for students to view on their own. Structured activities that require student participation, such as Team Based Learning sessions, small group discussions, simulation and hospital labs, and interactive teaching sessions, must follow the NSTC policy or comply with the campus policy: <https://911.lsuhscc.edu/coronavirus/campus-guidelines.aspx>.
- **Nursing Class Size and Student Class Size Limit (based on 6 feet physical distancing).**
- **Class room capacity to maintain a 6-foot distance. Room-specific capacity is noted outside each room.**

3. Clinical Practicums

- Clinical practicum experiences are required to earn academic credit for the respective clinical practicum course and meet the established degree requirements. Students and faculty should follow infection control prevention guidelines when caring for all patients in accordance with the clinical affiliated agencies infection control guidelines, policies, and procedures. Students and faculty are required to use Personal Protective Equipment in accordance with the respective clinical agencies infection control guidelines, policies and procedures. Faculty and students are required to adhere to each clinical agency's policies.

The following should guide administrators and faculty consideration regarding appropriateness of clinical learning environments:

- Is there sufficient PPE for the students and what are the expectations for wearing it?
- Will the hospital require students to be tested for COVID-19 prior to coming? If so, will the hospital provide the testing?
- What procedures exist if a student is inadvertently exposed to a patient with COVID-19 patient? Will the hospital provide testing?

4. Regulatory and Accreditation Compliance

- Throughout this crisis, nursing administrators and faculty must follow all regulatory guidelines issued by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN).
- Throughout this crisis, nursing administrators and faculty must follow all guidelines issued by the CCNE (accrediting body for our nursing school) and COA. Our program is fully accredited and remains in compliance with CCNE and COA standards.
- Throughout this crisis, nursing administrators and faculty must follow all guidelines issued by the ANCC (accrediting body for nursing continuing professional development/continuing nursing education) and the AHA for emergency cardiovascular care courses.

IV. Research Faculty and Staff

Research has been ongoing at a limited level since the Coronavirus outbreak. Research activities will require the ability to provide a research setting that allows physical distancing and use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as necessary to continue activities. The COVID-19 pandemic also provides opportunities for innovative research and new sources of extramural funding.

V. Faculty Practice

Faculty are expected to continue engaging in faculty practice activities following the clinical practice settings infection control and prevention guidelines. Despite the use of telemedicine and the creation of new clinical processes and safety measures, all faculty and staff should provide an efficient and high-quality clinic experience and promote patient satisfaction.

Safety for clinic patients, faculty, and staff can be promoted by workflows for triage, isolation and rapid testing for patients and staff, and by access to adequate PPE. All patients should continue to be screened upon entry to the clinic. Isolation and rapid testing should be available for symptomatic patients.

Redesign of practice operations to facilitate physical distancing should be in place for all clinical environments. Masks and accessible hand sanitizer should be provided. Hand hygiene is required. Promotion of faculty, staff, and student adherence to routine safety policies such as physical distancing, wearing masks and practicing strict hand hygiene.

VI. Vaccination

- COVID-19 vaccinations are available on site at LSU Health-New Orleans, <https://911.lsuhscl.edu/coronavirus/campus-vaccine-info.aspx>.
- COVID-19 vaccinations are strongly encouraged.
- COVID-19 vaccinations may become a requirement to complete clinical training at some clinical agencies.

Revised 7/28/21 dp