



## COVID-19 Return-to-Campus-Activity Planning Guidelines Interim Plan (Summer and Fall 2020)

### **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.lsuhsoc.edu/NSTC/docs/NSTC%20Guidelines%20COVID%2019\\_4.22\\_20F.pdf](https://nursing.lsuhsoc.edu/NSTC/docs/NSTC%20Guidelines%20COVID%2019_4.22_20F.pdf).

**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:**

- **Social distancing, use of surgical or cloth 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.
- **Selected high risk groups of faculty and staff**, as defined by University policy and in accordance with State and National guidelines, may be allowed to work from home if their duties, role and responsibilities can be performed effectively in that manner, with approval of the Dean.

- **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.lsuhs.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 are being explored for LSUHSC employees and students for rapid identification of infected individuals and for surveillance to prevent asymptomatic carrier transmission.

## **II. General Nursing Student Education**

### **1. General Principles**

- The 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 a surgical or cloth mask in public spaces, in classrooms, simulation and hospital labs, to adhere to social 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 and community service activities will be encouraged when safety measures can be assured, appropriate supervision is available, and community needs are assessed. All student extracurricular activities must be approved through the 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.lsuhs.edu/CommunityOutreach/>).

### **2. Didactic Nursing Courses and Continuing Nursing Education Activities**

- **General Guideline.** In March, all nursing classes transitioned to remote on-line platforms, which will be continued to be used as necessary. Lectures will be conducted in person or via a remote learning platform, depending on the class enrollment size and other COVID-19 related issues, as necessary. 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, will be done in person or via Zoom, based on class size enrollment.

- **Summer 2020.** New student orientations will be conducted remotely via a virtual platform. Nursing courses larger than **32 students** will not be conducted face to face when classes resume in June 2020 but rather will continue to be conducted remotely, recorded and posted on line for the Summer 2020 semester. Classes with **32 or less students** can resume on campus activity beginning June 1, 2020. In addition, faculty can plan and conduct small student group in-class activities provided that faculty and students can maintain safe social distancing guidelines. The group size will be determined based on the classroom or venue size.
- **Nursing Class Size and Student Class Size Limit (based on 6 feet social distancing):**

Classroom	Capacity	Additional Notes
Seminar Room 1	19	Could increase with some re-configuration
Seminar Room 2	12	
Lecture Hall A	27	
Lecture Hall B	29	
Lecture Hall C	32	
CNE Classroom – 4 <sup>th</sup> floor	17	
NSTC Computer Room – 5 <sup>th</sup> floor	27	
Hospital Lab – 5 <sup>th</sup> floor	15	Could increase with some re-configuration
IV Lab – 5 <sup>th</sup> floor	6	
Simulation lab – 5 <sup>th</sup> floor	5	
Simulation lab – 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	5	
5 <sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room (5D1)	5	
Deans Conference Room – 4 <sup>th</sup> floor	11	
Conference Room 4B8	6	
Conference Room 4A9	6	
Conference Room 4A20	3	

- **Fall 2020.** Nursing courses larger than **32 students** will not be permitted when classes begin in August. Class schedules should remain unchanged without prior approval by the appropriate Associate Dean. Therefore, plans will be made to conduct orientation and ‘lectures’ remotely. Nursing courses larger than **32 students** will continue to be conducted remotely, recorded and posted on line. Classes with **32 or less students** can resume on campus activity beginning August, 2020. In addition, faculty can plan and

conduct small student group in-class activities, other small group educational activities, or hospital and simulation labs, provided faculty and students can maintain safe social distancing guidelines. The group size will be determined based on the classroom or venue size. Please note that the fall 2020 semester requirements may be changed contingent upon the evolving pandemic situation.

- The medical school is still assessing how to complete the gross anatomy class in which students work closely together. Options include minimizing student time in performing dissection, and providing students with prosected cadavers to study in small groups, similar to what was done in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina without any adverse impact on overall educational goals. Platooning students so that there are fewer students in the lab at any given time, and enforcing that students wear masks at all times is another option, albeit a less safe alternative.

### **3. Clinical Practicums**

- Clinical learning experiences were suspended in March 2020. Various approaches to clinical education were developed and implemented, including the use of virtual cases with faculty case discussions, virtual simulations, and other innovative clinical education activities.
- Clinical practicums resumed in April 2020 for undergraduate and graduate nursing education programs on a case by case basis with Dean approval. Students are required to engage in clinical practicum educational requirements by June 1, 2020, provided approval has been secured for the resumption of clinical nursing education with the clinical agency/institution. Clinical practicum experiences are required to earn academic credit for the respective clinical practicum course. Students should not knowingly be assigned to designated COVID-19 clinical services nor will they be knowingly assigned to care for a patient with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. Faculty will resume following nursing school policies and procedures for securing clinical practicum sites June 1, 2020.
- 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). Our program is fully accredited and remains in compliance with CCNE 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.

### **III. 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 social 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.

### **IV. 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 social 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 social distancing, wearing masks and practicing strict hand hygiene.