



## CLERKSHIP COVID-19 POLICY

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<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	6/2/2025	<b>NEXT REVIEW:</b>	5/1/2026
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	Academic Programs		
<b>CATEGORY:</b>	Academic Programs		
<b>APPLIES TO:</b>	Students in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Program		

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### REFERENCES AND RELATED POLICIES:

- CDC.gov
- MSU Together We Will COVID-19 Guidance
- MSUCOM Clerkship Absence Policy

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### PURPOSE

This policy will define the policies and procedures related to COVID-19.

### POLICY AND PROCEDURES

#### 1. COVID-19 VACCINES AND BOOSTERS

- a. In fall 2021, MSU announced a requirement for a primary vaccination series against COVID-19. In December 2021, MSU announced that boosters against COVID-19 would be required for all eligible students, faculty, and staff, beginning in spring semester 2022. In February 2023, MSU no longer will require the COVID-19 vaccination for students, staff, and faculty.
- b. Students should be aware that while MSU may no longer require the vaccination, clinical sites where students complete both core and/or elective rotations may require the COVID-19 vaccination and boosters of all staff, faculty, residents, and medical students, or require a site approved exception.
- c. Due to the need to verify and endorse student vaccination status to clinical sites, MSUCOM may require submission of vaccination and booster information and copies of vaccination cards separately and in addition to the university processes. In this event, students will be expected to comply with both submission requests.

## **2. CLERKSHIP STUDENT PROTOCOLS (OMS-III AND OMS-IV)**

- a. Screening for symptoms
  - i. Clerkship students are to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. If a clerkship student develops symptoms of COVID-19, the student is required to complete the Clerkship COVID Qualtrics Survey immediately, including weekends, upon symptom development and repeated for any change in symptoms throughout any illness.
  - ii. The Clerkship COVID Qualtrics Survey is required to be completed during the entire length of the student's clerkship, including while on virtual rotations, vacations, etc., to assist in the assessment of readiness for both present and future rotations.
  - iii. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:
    - 1. At least one of the following (please note any one of the below will result in isolation):
      - a. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
      - b. Cough
      - c. A fever or feverish (Fever is temperature 100.4 or felt feverish)
      - d. Loss of taste or smell
    - 2. Or two or more of the following (please note any two or more of the below will result in isolation):
      - a. Chills
      - b. Muscle Aches
      - c. Headaches
      - d. Sore Throat
      - e. Worsening congestion or runny nose
      - f. Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- b. If a student has a negative screen for isolation on the Qualtrics survey:
  - i. If the student is unable to attend rotation due to injury or illness that does not result in a Covid isolation, student must notify the rotation team and student coordinator and complete the Clerkship Program Excused Absence Form, utilizing a personal day absence.
  - ii. If the number of days absent will exceed the maximum allowed time, the student will need to contact the Associate Dean for Clerkship, Dr. Enright [enright4@msu.edu](mailto:enright4@msu.edu), for further guidance. Documentation may be required.
- c. If a student has a positive screen for symptoms on the Qualtrics survey:
  - i. The student is required to test for COVID-19. Any cost incurred for COVID testing is the responsibility of the student.
    - 1. Testing options below. Testing should be initiated or scheduled immediately, and results provided to Dr. Javed and Dr. Enright.
      - a. PCR testing-Students opting for a COVID PCR test should schedule one immediately. If a home test was completed and was positive, there is no need for a PCR test. If a home test was completed and is negative and the student chooses a PCR test, schedule a COVID-19 PCR test ASAP. For significant and/or worsening symptoms, the student should seek medical attention.

- b. COVID antigen testing/home test-Students opting to utilize COVID antigen/home testing must complete one test immediately. If the initial antigen/home test is negative, a second test is required 48 hours after the first negative test.
  - ii. Additional requirements after a positive screen.
    1. Isolate from others while awaiting testing.
    2. The student will communicate isolation absence to rotation team members, including the attending physician.
    3. The student will receive communication from Dr. Javed or Dr. Enright within 12 hours of the positive Clerkship COVID Qualtrics Survey. Student questions can be emailed to [kessle60@msu.edu](mailto:kessle60@msu.edu) and [enright4@msu.edu](mailto:enright4@msu.edu). If you do not hear from either Dr. Javed or Dr. Enright within 12 hours, please reach out to them as we may be experiencing technical difficulties with the Qualtrics screening tool.
  4. Communication
    - a. Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright will communicate any requirement to self-isolate to the student's rotation site medical education office (student coordinator and Director of Medical Education). The student will be cc'd on this communication.
    - b. Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright will communicate any requirement to self-isolate to the appropriate MSUCOM department(s) for additional online (virtual) content for continued progress on the rotation. The student will be cc'd on this communication and should expect a separate email from the Course Assistant listed on the syllabus providing online content/information. If the student does not receive that information, the student must contact the Course Assistant. Provided the virtual content is completed satisfactorily, there will not be a need to reschedule any missed time on the rotation. If at any time the student does not feel well enough to complete the material, the student should notify Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright.
    - c. Student communication-
      - i. The student is required to stay in close communication with Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright at this time. Failure to respond to requested follow-up could result in a submission to the Common Grounds Professionalism committee and may result in evaluation and action by the Committee on Student Evaluation.
      - ii. The student will communicate any isolation absence to rotation team members, including the attending physician.
      - iii. The student will provide COVID-19 testing results to Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright. A positive result will require further action/discussion with Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright.

- iv. The student will provide an account of symptoms, including temperature to Dr Enright during isolation and prior to resuming clinical duties.
- iii. Return to rotations includes ALL the following-
  - 1. Negative COVID-19 testing via one PCR test, or two home/antigen tests taken 48 hours apart.
  - 2. Improvement in symptoms and afebrile for 24 hours or more without the use of an antipyretic. Students do not need to be asymptomatic to return to clinical duties with negative COVID testing.
  - 3. Prolonged illness may require a repeat COVID 19 test and/or documentation from a physician may be required.
  - 4. Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright must communicate readiness for return to the rotation site prior to student return to clinical duties.
  - 5. If the rotation site has a stricter procedure for medical students, the student and MSUCOM will adhere to the rotation site procedure, however all isolation time must be approved and directed by MSUCOM.
- d. COVID-19 Diagnosis
  - i. A report of a COVID-19 diagnosis (PCR or antigen/home test) requires the student to isolate and report positive test to Dr. Javed and Dr. Enright via the Clerkship COVID Qualtrics Survey or [kessle60@msu.edu](mailto:kessle60@msu.edu) and [enright4@msu.edu](mailto:enright4@msu.edu).
    - 1. Isolation time for a student who tests positive will be 5 days.
    - 2. Asymptomatic or improved symptoms at isolation day 5 may be able to return to clinical duties on Day 6 with a mask for an additional 5 days. Improved symptoms include being afebrile for 24 hours or more without the use of an antipyretic.
    - 3. Worsening symptoms or fever at day 5 will result in additional days of isolation until symptoms are improving, including no fever for >24 hours without the use of an antipyretic. A physician's note may be required. Upon return, the student will be required to mask for a total of 10 days from diagnosis or symptom onset, whichever occurred first.
  - ii. Communication
    - 1. The student will have communication from Dr. Javed or Dr. Enright within 12 hours of a positive Clerkship COVID Qualtrics Survey. The student may email any questions to [kessle60@msu.edu](mailto:kessle60@msu.edu) and [enright4@msu.edu](mailto:enright4@msu.edu). If you do not hear from either Dr. Javed or Dr. Enright within 12 hours, please reach out to them as we may be experiencing technical difficulties with the Qualtrics screening tool.
    - 2. Dr. Javed/ Dr. Enright will communicate any requirement to isolate to the student's rotation site medical education office (student coordinator and Director of Medical Education). The student will be cc'd on this communication.
    - 3. Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright will communicate any requirement to self-isolate to the appropriate MSUCOM department(s) for additional online (virtual) content for continued progress on the rotation. The student will be cc'd on this communication and should expect a separate email from

the Course Assistant listed on the syllabus providing online content/information. If the student does not receive that information, the student must contact the Course Assistant. Provided the virtual content is completed satisfactorily, there will not be a need to reschedule any missed time on the rotation. If at any time the student does not feel well enough to complete the material, the student should notify Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright.

4. Student communication-

- a. The student is required to stay in close communication with Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright at this time. Failure to respond to requested follow-up could result in a submission to the Common Grounds Professionalism committee and may result in evaluation and action by the Committee on Student Evaluation.
- b. The student will communicate any isolation absence to rotation team members, including the attending physician.
- c. The student will provide an account of symptoms, including temperature to Dr. Javed/Dr. Enright during isolation and prior to resuming clinical duties.
- iii. If the rotation site has a stricter procedure for medical students, the student and MSUCOM will adhere to the rotation site procedure; however, all isolation time must be approved and directed by MSUCOM.
- e. COVID-19 Exposure (work or household/social exposure)
  - i. An exposure includes someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period without appropriate PPE. Caring for a patient diagnosed with COVID-19 while using appropriate PPE (N95 mask, protective eyewear, gown, gloves) is not considered an exposure.
  - ii. Exposures, either work or household/social exposure, must be reported to the Clerkship COVID Qualtrics Survey or [kessle60@msu.edu](mailto:kessle60@msu.edu) and [enright4@msu.edu](mailto:enright4@msu.edu). Dr. Javed or Dr. Enright will contact the student within 12 hours of the exposure report.
  - iii. Exposures do not require isolation. The student will continue participating in clinical activities.
  - iv. All exposures will require a COVID-19 antigen/home tests at day 1, day 3, and day 5 (where day of exposure is day 0) with testing occurring 48 hours apart. Test results must be reported to Dr. Javed ([kessle60@msu.edu](mailto:kessle60@msu.edu)) and Dr. Enright ([enright4@msu.edu](mailto:enright4@msu.edu)).
  - v. All students will carefully monitor for symptoms and report any symptoms to the Clerkship COVID Qualtrics Survey or [kessle60@msu.edu](mailto:kessle60@msu.edu) and [enright4@msu.edu](mailto:enright4@msu.edu).
  - vi. If the rotation site has a stricter procedure for medical students, the student and MSUCOM will adhere to the rotation site procedure, however all isolation time must be approved and directed by MSUCOM.

3. Clinical site protocols

- a. Each rotation site may have specific policies or procedures relating to COVID-19. MSUCOM students are expected to follow all site-specific protocols. MSUCOM must approve and direct any isolation time.
- 4. COVID-19 related absences
  - a. MSUCOM approved and directed isolation absences do not count toward the student's 5 personal day allotment per each clerkship year per the Clerkship Absence Policy. Prolonged isolation may require make up of time missed on rotation.
- 5. Travel
  - a. MSUCOM protocols do not require isolation or testing for domestic or international travel. Please seek the CDC guidance for non-MSUCOM recommendations.
- 6. Failure to comply with COVID-19 policies and procedures.
  - a. Failure to comply with the COVID-19 policies and procedures will result in a submission to the Common Grounds Professionalism committee and may result in evaluation and action by the Committee on Student Evaluation.
- 7. Alterations in COVID-19 policies and procedures
  - a. Due to the changing landscape of COVID-19, policies and procedures may be altered throughout any academic year. Students will be updated on any changes via Clerkship Update emails and will be expected to comply with any new changes.

MSUCOM COVID Clerkship Qualtrics Survey:

[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5nLwCWFc4Mq2bEq](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5nLwCWFc4Mq2bEq)