

Communication to Students: Risk Attestation Form, COVID Vaccine Survey and Vaccine Record

February 16, 2021

Dear Students,

Please pay close attention to this important message.

The purpose of this communication is to provide you with important reminders, updates, and information about the plan for next academic year. As you know, for academic year 2020-21 we strategically transitioned didactic courses to be offered online and designed course schedules so that small clinical groups remain together to limit your exposure, and thereby reducing the potential for a widespread outbreak of COVID-19 within our community. In addition, we have enacted stringent safety practices requiring social distancing, use of face masks, screening for symptoms and fevers, and sanitizing of surfaces to keep you and the entire campus community safe. In addition, Bon Secours Mercy Health System has provided COVID-19 vaccinations for all BSN students at any of the Bon Secours Mercy COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Vaccination is not mandatory; however, it is highly recommended. Early efforts at vaccination are promising; however, the three primary rules of reduced transmission must continue:

- 1) maintain appropriate 6-foot distancing in all social interactions
- 2) wear a mask whenever you are in contact with others in any public area and wear a face shield in the health care arena
- 3) practice frequent handwashing to reduce the spread of germs

It is our collective responsibility as a community to minimize our exposure to keep our campus safe and our College open. If you think that you have been exposed or that you may have COVID-19, please notify Dr. Marcella Williams (BSMCON COVID-19 nurse) at marcella_williams@bshsi.org or 517-574-0648 for assistance.

Risk Attestation Form, COVID Vaccine Survey and Vaccine Record

To help protect patients, visitors, students, associates, and staff, Bon Secours Mercy Health is requiring all students and faculty to **complete and submit the attached risk attestation form**. At this time, only BSN students in their Clinical Immersion experience are fit-tested for N-95 respirators to safely care for COVID-19 patients. If we expand clinical experiences that include caring for COVID-19 positive patients to additional student cohorts, then those students will be appropriately fit-tested for the N-95 mask and supplied all necessary personal protection equipment (PPE).

In addition, students are required to **complete and submit a COVID-19 vaccine survey** and their **COVID-19 vaccine record** if the student has completed the two-step process. Students will submit these items via the CastleBranch system no later than March 1, 2021. *In preparation for Spring Break, please note the policy for travel outside of the United States described on the attestation form.*

Plans for Fall 2021

In regard to Fall 2021, the health and safety of our campus community remains our number one priority. At this time, we acknowledge that mitigation measures for COVID-19 will continue for the unforeseen

future and we are hopeful for the potential for expanding class offerings on campus in the fall. The Beyond the Lecture format of asynchronous virtual instruction and synchronous interactive learning will continue. Our hope is that the scheduled synchronous learning will occur in the classroom instead of through video conferencing. The times and locations of courses will be loaded in your future class schedule in the coming weeks; however, if the pandemic conditions do not allow for small group synchronous classes, then we will simply move the synchronous sessions back to video conferencing as they are currently offered. Labs and clinical practicum will be scheduled similarly to how they are now, and we will continue to offer excellent clinical opportunities to support your learning.

We appreciate your attention to this important message and your compliance with these expectations. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dean Sorbello and Associate Dean Perkins