

## M3/M4 FREQUENTLY ASKED COVID-19 QUESTIONS

July 15, 2020

Some of this information is quoted or adapted from Dr. Michael Deichen's 7-8-20 email, "Guidelines for Receiving COVID Tests, Reporting Results", from Dr. Michael Deichen, MD, MPH, Associate Vice President of UCF Student Health Services.

### 1. What can I do on my part to help stop the spread of COVID-19?

"Health care systems across our region are currently stressed due to the influx of cases and demands for testing. While we are actively working to improve our own testing and tracing processes at UCF, it is incumbent on each of us to not let our guards down. Lives are on the line. No matter where we are, we must take the actions required to help us reduce spread by wearing facial coverings, respecting physical distancing, washing hands regularly, and avoiding large social gatherings. Remember that it is highly possible to have COVID-19 yet not exhibit symptoms, so practicing these behaviors is a matter of keeping those around you safe."

In addition to screenings at your clinical site, each day you should review the newly revised screening questions on the COVID Self-Checker in the UCF Mobile app. You can download the app now, and the Self-Checker. The UCF Mobile app is available for iOS and Android smartphones and tablets. UCF Mobile can be downloaded at: <https://ucfmobile.ucf.edu> Let your supervisor know immediately if you develop symptoms.

"UCF has [compiled a robust list of FAQs](#) that addresses common questions, and we are making regular updates to the [university's coronavirus website](#)."

### 2. After I start my M3/M4 rotations, do I ever need to be tested for COVID-19?

If you are exposed to COVID-19, the level of risk of your exposure needs to be determined by consultation (a) at your clinical placement site if it is available (e.g., at Nemours, you can go to the Nemours employee health clinic) or (b) through UCF Student Health.

"If you have symptoms: [Monitor your symptoms](#) and [assess using the COVID self-checker](#). If you are sick, stay home, [contact your primary care provider](#) and avoid contact with others. Students and employees may call the UCF COVID Line at [407-823-2509](tel:407-823-2509).

**NOTE:** Testing may not be appropriate for all individuals, [according to CDC guidelines](#). Especially with the current strain on testing and health care systems, it is important to consult with your provider about whether a test is necessary. Your risk of exposure is greatly reduced if you have been wearing face coverings and practicing physical distancing and sanitizing protocols.

"Based upon consultation with a doctor, you could be tested at one of the [UCF testing sites](#) or a location near you. While you exhibit symptoms or await a test or test results, stay home and avoid contact with others until you learn whether you are positive for COVID-19 or have been

cleared by a health care provider.” Keep your clerkship director and administrator informed throughout this process.

### **3. What do I do if I test positive for COVID-19?**

- Stay home and do not come to your clinical site. Let Dr. Soraya Smith in Student Affairs know ([Soraya.Smith@ucf.edu](mailto:Soraya.Smith@ucf.edu)). Let your clerkship and administrator know, and apply for an excused medical absence. Means of making up missed days will be determined on a case by case basis.
- “Avoid contact with others, and do not leave home for non-essential reasons. Consider contactless methods for grocery shopping and picking up medication, for example, and do not engage in any activity where you could expose others.”
- “If you have not already, notify the UCF COVID Line by calling [407-823-2509](tel:407-823-2509) to coordinate contact tracing with the Department of Health.”
- “Consult with your doctor before resuming normal activities, including returning to work.” You need to send Soraya Smith a note from your doctor clearing you to return to patient care work, and communicate your clearance to your clerkship director and administrator.

#### **If Someone Close to You Tests Positive for COVID-19**

- Stay home and do not come to your clinical site until the level of risk of your exposure is assessed either (a) at your clinical placement site if it is available (e.g., at Nemours, you can go to the Nemours employee health clinic) or (b) through UCF Student Health. Follow their medical instructions regarding any testing that may be needed and whether you can return to work.

### **4. How do I deal with all of this while I am using “away” housing provided by UCF COM?**

- In recent years UCF COM has arranged free housing for M3 students at “away” clerkship sites such as in St. Petersburg, Naples, Ocala, Gainesville, and St. Augustine. M3 students have the right to arrange their own housing and thereby decline the housing provided by UCF COM at “away” sites. In the context of COVID-19, UCF COM is taking the following additional steps to promote the health and welfare of students choosing to utilize the free “away” housing arranged by UCF COM:
  - UCF COM provision of “away” housing for 2020-2021 will adhere to the principles and requirements outlined in Addendum 1, “University of Central Florida Department of Housing and Residence Life Addendum to 2020-2021 Housing Agreement.” All students must agree that “taking steps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and its spread is the shared responsibility” of all, including the requirement to follow COVID-19 health and safety standards. Addendum 1 provides UCF students—including UCF COM students who accept UCF-provided housing at “away” clerkship sites—with details about shared obligations. For example, “No guests or visitors, at any time, including overnight, are permitted.” (Item 2E in Addendum 1 applies only to UCF students living on campus in

- Orlando, e.g., “UCF has announced a plan to move to online instruction as of Thanksgiving, but leave Residential Communities open for student residents”).
- UCF COM will supply students at “away” housing a washable cloth mask as well additional cleaning and disinfecting materials, and physical distancing and face coverings in common areas, such as kitchen and living room, will be required. Students need to be mindful and accept responsibility for doing their part to keep themselves, their roommate, and others safe. All need to adopt the health measures necessary to promote a culture of health and well-being.
  - If a UCF COM student develops symptoms of, become exposed to, or become infected with, COVID-19, they should seek medical evaluation at their local clinical site (e.g., employee health clinic) or UCF Student Health, and follow the guidelines outlined 1G and 1H in Addendum 1.

**5. Can I travel, (a) within Florida and (b) outside Florida, after I start my M3/M4 rotations?**

Since any future travel increases the chance of getting and spreading COVID-19, UCF COM recommends that students follow the CDC guidelines of staying home as much as possible if travel is not essential. In general, ‘the traveler should beware’, as you may face quarantine upon your return to Orlando, depending upon the status of COVID-19 in the area where you travel, even if your travel is for an M3/M4 rotation. For individual recommendations, you must contact Dr. Klapheke in advance if you plan future travel outside Orlando. Post-travel quarantine decisions will depend upon the most up to date public health situation, with special attention if the proposed travel is to designated "hot spots" (e.g., if “percent positive for lab testing” is quite high) or if travel/quarantine requirements are in place per Executive Orders from local, state, and federal governments.

**Before contacting Dr. Klapheke**, you must utilize the following resources to generate a risk assessment of your proposed travel. First, read the data and recommendations at: <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/travelers/> Then:

If you plan to travel within Florida, go to <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/> Scroll down and click on “See Dashboard”. Then, at the bottom of the screen, select “Cases by County”. On the top right of the dashboard, at “Select a county”, enter the name of the county you are traveling to. Then take a screenshot of this data. Then, at the bottom of the screen, select “Health Metrics”. Take a screenshot of this data as well.

If you plan to travel out of state, go to the CDC COVID Tracker at: <https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#cases> Then click on the state you are traveling to, and take a screenshot of the most recent COVID data for that state.

Send a copy of your travel risk assessment to Dr. Klapheke, including a copy of the screenshots as well as a description of your planned travel.

## 6. **What if I do not feel safe to participate in patient care rotations?**

- Review Dr. Verduin's 7-13-20 email, "Information on Delay of Clerkships" so that you understand the relevant considerations and impact on your M3/M4 year planning.
- If you decide to delay the start of your clerkships, notify—by Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm—the following by email: (a) Dr. Soraya Smith ([Soraya.Smith@ucf.edu](mailto:Soraya.Smith@ucf.edu)) in Student Affairs, (b) Dr. Klapheke ([Martin.Klapheke@ucf.edu](mailto:Martin.Klapheke@ucf.edu)), (c) Ken Staack ([Ken.Staack@ucf.edu](mailto:Ken.Staack@ucf.edu)), (d) Christie Hasegawa ([Christie.Hasegawa@ucf.edu](mailto:Christie.Hasegawa@ucf.edu)), and (e) Margaret Orr ([Margaret.Orr@ucf.edu](mailto:Margaret.Orr@ucf.edu)). The delay will cause your completion of the core clerkships to be extended into your M4 year.
- The logistics of changing an M3 schedule at this late date are extremely complex. If you decide to delay the beginning your core clerkships, *your decision will be final*. Your options are: Instead of beginning your clerkships in block 1 on August 10, 2020, you can begin with block 3 as outlined in your original schedule, on October 12, 2020.  
Please note there is limited availability of nonclinical electives. You can apply, through Christie Hasegawa, for a 4-week M4 nonclinical rotation (if available) for August 24-September 18, 2020, as well as a 2-week M4 nonclinical rotation (if available) for September 21-October 2, 2020. (The week of October 5<sup>th</sup> is vacation time).  
Alternatively, you could apply to take one of your allotted M4 "off" blocks.  
Apply for a longer leave of absence through Student Affairs.
- If you do not plan to stay actively enrolled, make sure your first check how this will impact your financial aid with Financial Aid in Student Affairs.

## 7. **HOW do I protect myself at clinical rotations? Tips from Feroza Daroowalla MD MPH:**

- You will not be entering known COVID patient or PUI rooms.
- Patients may have COVID without the knowledge of the team. Wear a surgical mask and face shield as much as possible in direct patient care even if the patient is masked.
- Remove and leave your work clothes and shoes in the car, garage, or at the door of your home. Use clothes that can be washed regularly in soap and water. Keep your hair tied up or covered while at work. Keep nails short and clean so that you can do good hand washing.
- Follow site rules for daily screening.
- Follow site rules for use of PPE which may include fit testing, limited access to certain rooms, pre-screening of patients before you enter rooms.
- Masks are not effective with facial hair, and it is highly recommended that beards be removed if at all possible
- Get knowledge of site recommendations of higher-level PPE in certain hospital locations such as ER and ICU.
- Be extremely sensitive to the use and wastage of PPE. Most sites are rationing these. Even for the non-N-95 masks and regular gloves, be aware of widespread shortages.
- In workspaces, nurses' stations, conference rooms, hospital hallways, elevators- maintain reasonable social distancing and maintain mask wearing at all times.

- The virus is killed by soap – hand washing/alcohol cleaner use after each patient encounter is recommended.

11- While on rotation, limit your exposure outside work and wear masks when you go to stores, socialize or go to the gym. Outdoor activity is highly recommended/preferred as transmission is much lower in those settings.

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ADDENDUM 1:

**2020-2021 Housing Agreement Addendum – Owned/DSO communities**

University of Central Florida Department of Housing and Residence Life

Addendum to 2020-2021 Housing Agreement

As you know, these are challenging and unprecedented times. The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, was declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization, and the State of Florida declared a public health emergency due to COVID-19. COVID-19 is a highly contagious and potentially severe illness. According to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), COVID-19 is spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person. The University of Central Florida (UCF), including the UCF Department of Housing and Residence Life (DHRL), holds as paramount the health and welfare of our community. Yet, we all must acknowledge that UCF cannot guarantee a COVID-19 free environment, and it would be false to suggest otherwise. Moreover, taking steps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and its spread is the shared responsibility of every Knight in our UCF community and every resident in our Residential Communities. As we welcome residential students back to campus for the 2020-2021 year, we know changes in our Residential Communities will be required to follow COVID-19 health and safety standards and guidance for community living. Acknowledging that these precautions will change the traditional UCF residential life experience, we are issuing this Addendum to the UCF 2020-2021 Housing Agreement to provide students with greater detail about these shared obligations, what they may expect, and how changes may impact their residential experience in the coming year. Please take time to carefully review each item and respond with your acceptance or rejection of these terms, as further explained below. Action on your part is required.

Additional Terms, Conditions and Responsibilities for 2020-2021 Housing Agreement:

1. Community Health and Precautions.

- A. The Student acknowledges the inherent and elevated risk associated with living in a community environment such as the UCF Residential Communities, and the Student's shared obligation to prioritize health precautions for the benefit of the entire community.
- B. The Student acknowledges they have considered their own personal health status and increased risk factors inherent with community living, including the risk of COVID-19, when deciding to live in a UCF Residential Community. The Student acknowledges that UCF is not responsible for any medical or other expenses associated with any damage or injury Student may sustain, and that UCF does not maintain any insurance pertaining to potential illness Student may develop or damage Student may sustain from living in the UCF Residential Communities.
- C. The Student acknowledges that if they choose to live in a double occupancy room, the risk of contracting COVID-19 may be increased due to the closer proximity to another person.

- D. The Student agrees to adhere to UCF expectations intended to minimize risk of exposure to COVID-19 consistent with public health guidance, including, but not limited to, practicing social distancing and wearing appropriate face coverings or masks per UCF policy.
- E. The Student acknowledges their responsibility to keep personal living space in a sanitary condition and to adhere to sanitation standards in shared spaces. UCF DHRL staff retain the right to conduct inspections of the living space.
- F. The Student acknowledges they may be required to submit to symptom checking or COVID-19 testing to access the residential community.
- G. The Student agrees to disclose to Student Health Services immediately upon notification of positive COVID-19 test status or contact from Florida Department of Health about exposure and instruction to isolate.
- H. The Student agrees to comply with University and/or public health direction requiring or advising isolation (such as if Student tests or is presumptive positive for COVID-19 or has been in close contact with someone who has tested or is presumptive positive for COVID-19). Isolation may require removal from assigned room, building, or campus. Isolation does not constitute cancellation of the Housing Agreement. UCF reserves the right to make changes in room assignments as necessary due to the pandemic. Students are required to comply with all laws, orders, ordinances, policies, regulations, and guidance adopted by UCF or DHRL as it relates to COVID-19. This guidance may evolve as circumstances warrant. DHRL may require student to leave housing in the event the Student's continued presence poses a health or safety risk to the residential community.

## 2. General Terms and Provisions

- A. The Student acknowledges the University may restrict the full use of spaces and amenities within the residential community including, but not limited to:
  - a. No guests or visitors, at any time, including overnight, are permitted.
  - b. Access to residential spaces is restricted to residential students, UCF staff, and approved vendors.
  - c. Residents may only enter the residential building to which they are assigned unless otherwise posted (i.e., to access services such as mailroom laundry, or staff offices.)
  - d. Residents may only have one other building resident as a guest in their assigned room.
  - e. Access to and use of community amenities/space may be restricted or limited in capacity (community space, offices, lounges, kitchen, laundry rooms, elevators, etc.)
- B. The Student acknowledges that Resident Assistants may have limited face to face contact with residents.
- C. The Student acknowledges the Agreement start and end dates and the length of Agreement may be adjusted to align with the University academic calendar.
- D. The Student acknowledges Student-initiated room change requests may be restricted or limited.
- E. UCF has announced a plan to move to online instruction as of Thanksgiving, but leave Residential Communities open for student residents. The Student acknowledges that Student will remain liable for housing costs for that period and the University will not refund rents and fee(s) for that period.
- F. In the event of a conflict between the above Addendum and the original Agreement, this Addendum will apply.

UCF and DHRL are committed to supporting our students in their return to campus during this unprecedented time and recognizes the value of the on-campus residential experience. The above information has been provided to allow students to make an informed decision about living in UCF Residential Communities for the 2020-2021 school year. While the above is intended to provide some detail, there may be additional modifications needed as the year progresses and we track the impact of COVID-19 on our residential community and campus. As always, we will update you with timely information about specific health and safety guidance important for our residential community.