



Guidelines for Return to Face-to-Face Experiential Learning During COVID 19 Pandemic

(To be provided to all students, sites, and BU program leaders involved in experiential learning placements)

June 2020

Many Boston University programs include some component of face-to-face experiential learning. The nature and length of these experiences vary among programs. To the extent possible, the University is committed to assisting our students to complete these learning experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some programs may make alternative arrangements (e.g., telehealth, telemedicine, Zoom, FaceTime, Google Hangout, or other platforms) for students to complete these experiences in accordance with specific program requirements and accreditation standards, where applicable. Where that is not applicable, these guidelines are intended to promote the health and safety of students during face-to-face experiences. They are guidelines, not rules, but we hope that students, programs, and sites will follow them to the extent doing so is reasonable and appropriate, given context. In addition, while these guidelines are intended to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to students participating in experiential learning, given the highly contagious nature of COVID-19 and the possibility of transmission by asymptomatic individuals, the University cannot guarantee that adherence to these guidelines will entirely prevent such transmission.

BU Responsibilities

1. BU Programs will communicate to students their options for returning to face-to-face experiences, including, but not limited to, the process for requesting a reasonable accommodation (if applicable), and the possibility of delaying graduation if students choose not to return to face-to-face experiences during the typical timeframe for the program.
2. BU programs will contact each site where they place students to communicate to them site responsibilities, providing this document and asking them to acknowledge their responsibilities. Of course, not all programs have contracts or formal relationships with sites, and where students make their own placement arrangements, they may need to provide these guidelines to the site.

Site Responsibilities

Ideally, at least two weeks prior to the student's anticipated start date, the experiential learning site will:

1. Communicate any additional COVID-19 related requirements or screenings it has implemented (e.g., COVID-19 testing and daily screening protocols).
2. Provide the student a copy of any additional documentation that the student may be required to complete or sign (e.g., waiver of liability, assumption of risk, release, or consent).
3. Verify that there is capacity (i.e., an appropriate number of supervisors) to re-introduce students to the face-to-face environment.
4. Verify that protocols are in place to follow local, state, and federal guidelines related to COVID-19 that are appropriate to the setting.
5. Verify that students will have access to an adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) *appropriate to the setting* and that site will provide training in the use of such PPE prior to beginning any experience-specific activities. In some sites, it would be appropriate for students to expect the site would provide PPE. At other sites, it would be reasonable for students to provide PPE themselves. We do not dictate how this should work.
6. Verify that it has evaluated whether students will be permitted to be in direct contact with individuals known or suspected to have COVID-19 and that students will be made aware of relevant policies or procedures it may have implemented (if any).
7. Verify that a procedure is in place for notifying students if they are in close contact with individuals known to have contracted or being evaluated for COVID-19. Students should be made aware of this notification procedure prior to beginning any experience-specific activities.
8. Verify that students will be made aware of procedures to notify the site if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness, particularly COVID-19.
9. Where appropriate, verify that the site has a process to assess patients and providers for COVID 19 signs and symptoms.
10. Where appropriate, provide or direct students to the most up-to-date information related to COVID-19 guidance from the CDC and the health department of the state in which they will complete their experience. The need for this information will vary by site and the kinds of contacts students have with other people, including clients.

Student Responsibilities

1. By beginning their placement, students acknowledge that they have received, reviewed, and will adhere to local, state, and federal guidelines related to social distancing to

protect themselves as well as those individuals they will be in contact with during the experience.

2. By beginning their placement, students commit to following the site's policies and procedures, including those in place specifically related to COVID-19.
3. By beginning their placement, students commit to communicating with the appropriate BU program administrator (e.g., program director, director of clinical education) and the [Office of Disability & Access Services](#) any concerns they have about personal health or safety. (Additional resources for students include the [University Ombuds](#), which is confidential and independent.)
4. By beginning their placement, should they be diagnosed with COVID-19, students commit to reporting their COVID-19, status to BU COVID-19 HOTLINE.