



## **Guidelines for Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine Students to Re-enter Clinical Education Training Sites for Clinical Education Network (CEN) Partners**

### **Re-entry Start Date**

- Heritage College Class of 2021 students will be prepared to begin clinical training on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.
- Heritage College Class of 2022 students will begin orientation to clinical education on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Clinical rotations for Block One will commence on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- It is understood that all clinical rotation sites may not be available on these dates.

### **Onboarding Process**

- COVID-19 Screening:
  - A. Students will follow the established protocols set forth by Heritage College. This protocol will be shared with the healthcare site/system upon request.
  - B. Heritage College staff at Clinical Education Sites will maintain data on each student in E\*Value.
- COVID-19 Testing:
  - A. Students, determined by screening questions, who require further testing will be referred to appropriate local resources.
  - B. Students will also follow protocol set by training site or system.
  - C. Heritage College will communicate the professional obligation that students cannot enter patient care environments if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or any other acute illness.
- Orientation:
  - A. The Class of 2021 students have received orientation to clinical education training prior to being removed from clinical rotations in March 2020.
  - B. Any new protocols and policies created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the healthcare site/systems will need to be relayed to students on a case by case basis.

### **Virtual Learning**

- Over the past few months, Heritage College students in the Class of 2021 have been involved with a virtual curriculum including courses on Healthcare Management, COVID-19, Ohio Department of Health Pandemic response and Palliative Care.

- Recently and leading up to the June 22<sup>nd</sup> start, Heritage College students in the Class of 2021 have been engaged in core rotation curricular activities consisting of two-week online education via Aquifer with live faculty guidance via Zoom and Microsoft Teams followed by end of rotation national examinations (COMATs).
- Students in the Heritage College Class of 2022 will all participate in required COVID-19 training prior to entry on clinical rotations.

### **On-site Learning**

- Students will be expected to supply their own re-usable cloth mask and maintain social distancing when appropriate.
- Students will follow all clinical education site protocols for disinfecting areas as needed, hand hygiene and PPE requirements/use/safety.
- Students who have been exposed to COVID-19 or test positive to COVID-19 will be subject to immediate removal from the clinical service and the healthcare facility. The students' Heritage College clinical education staff must be contacted in order that appropriate quarantine, treatment, contact tracing and university notification can occur. The students will be referred to their personal healthcare provider for treatment and follow-up as necessary.
- Students have a duty to report exposure or illness. Their Heritage College clinical education staff will help them with this process. Students who are determined to have been exposed to the Coronavirus and require quarantine will be handled on a case by case basis. Medical expenses related to student illness, including COVID-19 are covered by the students' existing health insurance.
- Students who develop symptoms of COVID-19 are expected to remove themselves from clinical service with communication to their clinical educators as well as their Heritage College clinical education staff. Return to service will be determined by guidelines set forth by the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health, Heritage College and their clinical education site/system.

### **Training**

- Onsite clinical education of Heritage College students will be supervised by physicians who are also credentialed as Group IV faculty through Heritage College.
- There is no requirement for students to enter site/system clinical skills or standardized patient areas unless instructed by the clinical faculty. Students will be expected to follow site/system protocols if this should occur.
- Students may participate in contact tracing and virtual patient visits at the discretion of their preceptor and/or clinical training site.
- It is expected that students will not have direct care experiences with known or suspected COVID-19 infected patients in order to maintain adequate stock of PPE at the training site.

## Communication Plan

- Emergent information from the healthcare site/system will be sent to student via site/system alert systems. Emergent information pertaining to student rotations at the site/system should be relayed to Heritage College via the local clinical education site staff and/or the Clinical Education Network.
- Non-emergent communications to the healthcare system/site from Heritage College and to Heritage College from the healthcare site/system will follow established protocols.

## Other Considerations

- Visas/International learners  
Non-applicable for Heritage College Students
- Resiliency and Wellness  
Heritage College has ongoing wellness programs and resources available for students in need of behavioral health services.
- Surge Plan
  - A. It is understood that the ability for students to remain on clinical rotations is dependent on many factors such as the state of the COVID-19 pandemic, local and state regulations, Ohio University policies, ability of education sites to maintain adequate PPE stocks, etc.
  - B. Heritage College will work in conjunction with Clinical Education Network partners, AACOM, Ohio Department of Health, CDC, etc. to continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and will act in accordance with guidelines set forth by the above in the event of a new spike or surge.
- Ongoing Oversight  
Heritage College will continue to work closely with our clinical education member organizations to determine best policies and procedures for students and educators.