



Clinical Education Assumption of Risk

Participation in clinical education, including clinical simulations in didactic settings, is required by professional accreditation standards for health sciences programs. Any placement in a healthcare facility (including hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, or other such entities) for the purpose of clinical education entails certain risks, including the risk of exposure to infectious diseases and other personal injuries. Similarly, there exists some level of risk in didactic settings. While every effort will be made to minimize risks to students, staff, and faculty, the elimination of all such risks is beyond the control of the program or university.

Vaccination for many infectious diseases, including COVID-19, may be required by a healthcare facility for placement in clinical education. Idaho State University recommends, but does not require, the COVID-19 vaccination. All health science students may receive a COVID-19 vaccination free of charge. If unvaccinated, restrictions upon student activities may be imposed by the clinical placement site. Placement at certain healthcare facilities may be contingent on vaccination status and requirements may change without notice. Educational opportunities missed due to lack of vaccination may delay graduation and/or result in additional educational expenses to the student.

I freely and voluntarily accept the health risks and potential clinical placement site requirements described above to complete my clinical educational requirements. Before engaging in clinical education, please read, initial, and sign the following:

Initials

- _____ 1. I will not participate in clinical education if I exhibit any signs/symptoms of infection, including but not limited to: runny nose, fever, cough, shortness of breath, head or body aches, sore throat, loss of smell, or nausea/vomiting/diarrhea. If I exhibit any of these signs/symptoms, I will notify the appropriate person(s) at my clinical placement and my designated program contact person.
- _____ 2. I will comply with clinical placement policies related to facial covering/glove wearing and handwashing and disinfecting procedures before and after all patient encounters and at other times as specified.
- _____ 3. I will complete any required infection control or PPE training by my program or the clinical placement.
- _____ 4. I will follow all infection control guidelines, policies, and procedures of the clinical placement, program, and university. Such guidelines are subject to change.
- _____ 5. I recognize the dangers to myself and others of acquiring infectious diseases during clinical education, including the possibility of health-related consequences of such diseases. I recognize that vaccination for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases is recommended to decrease the risk of these consequences.
- _____ 6. I have the right to feel safe during clinical education. I have the ability to talk to my clinical instructor regarding any concerns I may have related to breaches in infection control measures or public health recommendations at any clinical placement.
- _____ 7. I recognize I have the right not to participate in clinical education because of the potential risk to myself and/or members of my household. I recognize that any missed clinical education time due to lack of participation or required quarantine time will need to be made up to complete program requirements and may delay my graduation.
- _____ 8. If I test positive for COVID-19, or any other contagious virus, I will notify my program's clinical coordinator and complete the self-report form.

I will follow all ISU or health facility-related screening requirements.

Documenting Exemptions:

Students may request an exemption to a clinical placement site's vaccination requirement for valid medical or religious reasons. If a student chooses not to be vaccinated for a medical or religious reason and seeks an exemption from the vaccination requirement imposed by a clinical placement, further documentation may be required by the site. Some clinical placements may facilitate the religious exemption request themselves and the student will need to complete the site's appropriate form. Other sites may ask the university to help facilitate this process. Decisions to accept an exemption request are generally up to the clinical site.

Medical exemption requests: Students should work with the ISU Office of Disability Services for disability accommodations. Students can fill out a Student Request for Services Form or call (208) 282-3599 (Pocatello), (208) 373-1723 (Meridian), or email disabilityservices@isu.edu. Upon the conclusion of the accommodation process, the Office of Disability Services will email a letter to the student with the decision of the medical exemption request for submission to any requesting clinical placement.

Religious exemption requests: Students should work with the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX for a religious exemption request by completing the Religious Exemption Request Form. The Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX will email a letter to the student with the decision of the religious exemption request for submission to any requesting clinical placement. Students can reach the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX at (208) 282-3964 or email quingrac@isu.edu to request the form.

Opt-out Guidelines:

In general, satisfactory progression through professional curricula requires that students complete clinical and didactic course requirements in the semester in which they are enrolled. Programmatic requirements are based on professional accreditation standards and licensing board requirements, and include clinical education activities. Should a student be unable to complete requirements due to illness or CDC recommended isolation/quarantine, make-up work may be allowed if congruent with programmatic or university policies for other medically related absences. Should a student choose not to complete any course or program requirement related to clinical education, the student is responsible for contacting the course instructor and providing a rationale for "opting out." Opt-out policies may vary between programs; students should contact their individual programs for specifics on process. Delays in progression and/or graduation may occur if a student chooses to opt-out of any aspect of required coursework.

Other potential consequences and considerations:

Clinical placement sites may limit the types of patient populations with whom unvaccinated students may interact. For example, some sites do not allow students to see patients with acute respiratory illness or to interact with pregnant patients if they have not been vaccinated for COVID 19 and other infectious diseases. A student's satisfactory progression through clinical education may be impeded if students cannot demonstrate adequate training in such patient populations.

Sharing Information with Clinical Placement Site

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 or any other contagious virus, this information may need to be shared with clinical site preceptors. A separate FERPA waiver form will need to be signed by the student and completed for each preceptor site with whom test results are to be shared. This form is available online and in the Health Occupations Department main office.

This assumption of risk agreement is in effect for the course of the program of study or until replaced with a subsequent executed assumption of risk agreement form a new document is signed, whichever is greater.

I have read, understand, and voluntarily accept the risks outlined above. By signing this document, I acknowledge that I am assuming full responsibility for any potential risks associated with the activity or situation described

Student Name (Print)

Student's Signature

Date