

RVUCOM POLICY ON STUDENT AWAY ROTATIONS DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC
(FOR GENERAL PUBLICATION)

Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine is both aware of and supportive of The Coalition for Physician Accountability Work Group on Medical Students guidelines, which were distributed on May 11, 2020. The Coalition stressed concern for community, patient and learners' safety, while allowing that medical students would need to meet core competencies. The Coalition also allowed that the ability to meet these competencies would vary from medical school to medical school, and each medical school would need to establish their own policies on away rotations for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coalition allowed that establishing these policies within a medical school should recognize the diversity of learners within the school, should attempt to reduce anxiety and promote the well-being of individual learners and would require innovation and flexibility on the part of medical schools and residency programs. While the Coalition recommended limiting away rotations as much as possible, the final recommendations also allowed for differences between medical schools in their ability to provide medical students experiences in all specialties within a residency program within a proximate geographic area. This process is complicated by the fact that a number of students returned to their home geographic area to be with family at the beginning of the pandemic, so students may be scattered geographical across the country.

A number of specialty organizations and organizations of residency program directors have published their response to the issues facing medical students during the COVID-19 pandemic. These statements and suggested guidelines have been compiled on the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) web site with the following link:

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-residency/article/specialty-response-covid-19/>

Perusal of these statements and suggested guidelines suggests that various specialties take different approaches to the issue of away rotations by visiting students.

Taking all of the above guidelines and recommendations into consideration, RVUCOM has established the following guidelines for fourth year medical students applying for clinical away rotations:

1. Request for away rotations will be considered on an individual basis for each student
2. In general, away rotations will be discouraged for students who can fulfill equivalent learning experiences with a suitable residency program geographically near their domicile
3. Away rotation requests will be evaluated for each student based on their specialty of interest, the availability of suitable residency programs geographically near their domicile and the availability of alternate methods of obtaining the experience, eg. virtual away rotations.
4. Students will be required to sign an attestation document outlining the expectations for completing an away rotation (attached to the end of this document).
5. Students should visit the AAMC web site above frequently to review statements from societies about away rotations, but students are also encouraged to communicate directly with their specialty programs of interest to assess the attitude of the program concerning students completing away rotations with them.



Student Return to RVU Clinical Externship/Rotation Acknowledgment Form

By signing this document, I acknowledge the following:

- I understand that I am voluntarily accepting a clinical externship/rotation at _____.
- I understand that if I am unable or unwilling to engage in a clinical externship/rotation at this time that I may complete this requirement at a later date.
- I understand and agree that I may not report for duty to the clinical training site if I exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 disease.
- I understand and agree that if I develop any new symptoms that may be attributed to COVID-19, I will inform my preceptor and my clinical coordinator immediately.
- I agree to comply with all screening policies and protocols of the site, which may include taking of my temperature, blood tests, nasopharyngeal swabs, or other tests.
- I understand that there are risks associated with the clinical care of patients in the current pandemic. I further understand and accept that physical participation in clinical care could involve exposure to COVID-19, and other communicable diseases, and carries with it the risk of physical injury, illness, disability or death.
- I understand and agree to not provide any direct care to patients with documented or suspected COVID-19 infection.
- I understand and agree that when examining patients, I must ask them to wear a mask or cover their mouths with a cloth or paper towel, and that I must adhere to all personal protective equipment requirements of the clinical training site.
- I agree to always wear a face mask unless specifically asked not to by the preceptor or other site administrator(s).
- I understand and agree that I must review the following training material prior to my first day of each clinical externship:
 - OSHA videos -
 - https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/training_videos.html
 - [Respiratory Protection for Healthcare Workers](#)
 - [The Difference Between Respirators and Surgical Masks](#)
 - [Respirator Types](#)
 - CDC referenced posters for use of PPE
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf>

- CDC Video:
 - [Using Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) | CDC](#)
 - (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>)

- RVU orientation video
 - <http://rvu-orientation-2024.weebly.com/ppe-procedures.html>

- I understand that failure to comply with any of the above requirements will be considered a breach of professional conduct and will result in referral to the appropriate college Associate Dean or Program Director for review and potential disciplinary action.

Accepted by:

Student's Name (PRINT)
Date

Student's Signature

Site Approval (To be completed on first day of Rotation):

Site Supervisor

Date