

Dear Practical Nursing Students,

We hope that you and your families are well!

St. Clair College has had communications with all of our clinical partner agencies. As we share what we know thus far, please keep in mind that all information provided here is tentative. As you know, changes related to COVID19 may necessitate a change in these plans, which could occur at the “last-minute.”

We remain optimistic that we will be able to have a full traditional clinical for the fall semester. If this hope is not realized, we are making contingency plans for remote learning activities.

PLAN A: Full Traditional Clinical

Hospitals and Long-Term Care facilities have expressed a desire to have all students return to clinical placements on their units. Currently, their own staff are restricted in their ability to work in certain positions, the same restrictions apply to students. Their current restrictions are:

- Students/staff may not ***concurrently*** work or have clinical placement in long term care, rest homes or retirement homes.
 - Chatham Kent Health Alliance (only) is also restricting students/staff to working in other hospitals
- Students/staff may not ***concurrently*** work in the United States, or have been in the US in the previous 14 days
- Students will be required to stop working in the above areas for 14 days prior to commencing clinical

The facilities will provide students with the necessary PPE. However, the need for PPE may be a factor that limits their ability to provide all the clinical hours that we are requesting. They are currently calculating PPE needs in light of the numbers of students needing clinical placements. It is also possible that post-conferences will need to be conducted virtually rather than in-hospital.

CONTINGENCY PLAN B: LIMITED FACE-TO-FACE CLINICAL for students

If the pandemic situation **limits** our ability to provide clinical placements this fall, we are making plans for partial traditional and partial remote learning experience. In this scenario, students would be in clinical every other week, with remote learning activities taking place during the alternate weeks. Further clinical hours may be added, as necessary, in the spring/summer 2021 semester.

WORK RESTRICTIONS

We are acutely aware that restrictions on employment during the fall semester may have significant financial implications for many students. If students are unable to attend a clinical course this fall because they must also work in one of these alternative health care sites, we will make every effort to ensure that they will not lose their academic year. This would, however, require additional clinical time during the spring/summer semester next year, as available. The alternative would be to postpone your

academic year till the fall of 2021. If you are in this situation please contact Linda Watson (lwatson@stclaircollege.ca), Chair School of Nursing, to discuss.

Please remember that the above information is tentative and is thus subject to change if the pandemic situation changes. Any/all agencies may cancel or postpone any/all clinical placements prior to or during the semester in response to the pandemic environment. As well, the restrictions on employment may become more or less stringent depending of the COVID19 circumstances at the time.

We understand that the uncertainty concerning fall clinical courses may be anxiety-provoking. In recognition of this, we will continue to provide you with updates as they become available. As always, our goal is to assure we provide you with learning experiences that enable you to achieve your course learning outcomes, while ensuring a safe learning environment by minimizing the risks associated with COVID19.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the School of Nursing in the fall.

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