Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Plan to Protect against COVID-19

During the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Grand Valley State University’s (GVSU) students in health-related academic programs may have curriculum components that cannot be taught or evaluated in virtual environments. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Michigan executive orders and the University have approved providing educational opportunities in person for healthcare related students where face-to-face teaching labs, simulations, and competency assessments (hereafter referred to as events) are required in order for students to graduate or to progress in their program of study. The policy and procedures outlined below provide the detailed steps the GVSU Simulation Center will take to reduce the risk of individual exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Event Scheduling

Unless mandated otherwise by the State of Michigan or the University, events scheduled in the Simulation Center will be scheduled in accordance to the room capacities determined by the Fire Marshall. For events where, close contact between individuals is required to meet course objectives, social distancing of six (6) feet should be maintained as much as possible and close contact should be limited. When possible, students should be assigned to work in pairs or groups of three to four throughout the semester, limiting interactions with other students or moving about from one work station to another. Faculty should plan for time to disinfect spaces utilized at the end of each event.

Prior to Arrival on Campus

Prior to arriving on the Health Campus for Simulation Center events, all individuals (students, faculty, staff, and temporary employees) will be required to complete a COVID-19 self-assessment screening survey (see Appendix A).

If after completing the COVID-19 self-assessment, no symptoms or exposures are reported, individuals will receive clearance to report to campus as indicated by a green checkmark. Individuals that report to campus, are required to wear a clean face mask. If not wearing a face mask, individuals will be provided a face mask upon entry. The face mask must be worn and social distancing of six (6) feet should be practiced as much as possible in all Simulation Center spaces.

If an individual reports symptom(s) or a known exposure in the COVID-19 self-assessment screening, they will be instructed to remain home and will be provided with instructions on the next steps. The individual should inform their professor or supervisor of the situation.

Ventilation Rates

Building ventilation rates on the GVSU Health Campus are based on occupancy. At a minimum they are set at seven (7) air exchanges per hour in classrooms and ten (10) air exchanges in labs. The air in the buildings on the GVSU Health Campus is not recirculated.

Revised 8.10.2021
Event Personal Protection Equipment Procedures

According to the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), individuals participating in educational laboratory or assessment activities fall into the Medium Risk Exposure category (MIOSHA, 2021) which is when individuals may have close contact (within six (6) feet) of the general public (MIOSHA, 2021).

Medium Risk Exposure criteria defined by MIOSHA states individuals may need to wear some combination of: gloves, gown, face mask, and/or face shield/safety glasses (MIOSHA, 2021). All Simulation Center events on GVSU’s Health Campus at a minimum will require individuals to wear a 3-ply disposable procedure face mask. The 3-ply procedure face masks will be provided. Once individuals receive their semester’s supply of 3-ply procedure face masks they are to arrive on the Health Campus wearing this type of mask on the days they have events in the Simulation Center. The 3-ply procedure face masks are only to be worn for the day of the event and must be thrown away after use. The 3-ply procedure face masks are not effective if they become saturated. If saturated, the 3-ply procedure face masks need to be replaced with a new one. Taking off and putting on another mask should be conducted outdoors while practicing six feet of social distancing or in a closed office space without the presence of others. Individuals may wear an N95 face mask without the respiratory valve or KN95 face mask in place of a 3-ply procedural face mask. N95 face masks or KN95 face masks should not be used with any type of second mask on top or underneath (Brooks et al., 2021). For certain Communication Sciences and Disorder events, single use transparent face masks will be provided. Transparent face mask use for simulation events will be decided on an event by event basis in collaboration with Simulation Center staff and faculty. Faculty from any academic discipline that are interested in obtaining a reusable transparent face mask for classroom teaching can order one through GVSU Facilities Services, https://www.gvsu.edu/facilitieservices/ppe-ordering-29.htm.

For events requiring close contact (within six (6) feet), in addition to the 3-ply procedure or transparent face mask, students, and faculty may request from the Simulation Central storage area in the Cook DeVos Center for Health Sciences, CHS 343 or the Raleigh Finkelstein Hall, RFH 021 a face shield or goggles, based on their preference. The face shields and goggles will have to be cleaned and reused throughout the remainder of the semester. Individuals will be responsible for cleaning their face shields/goggles and bringing them to subsequent events. Cleaning stations will be set up by the Simulation Center staff allowing for face shields/goggles to be cleaned with approved COVID-19 disinfecting products prior to individuals leaving the event setting. Individuals using these cleaning products are required to use gloves while cleaning and to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer afterwards. Face shields do not replace the 3-ply or transparent face mask requirement.

Hand Hygiene and Social Distancing

Immediately after entering the event space and prior to leaving, individuals will be required to wash their hands with soap and water for a minimum of twenty (20) seconds or use hand sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable.

Social distancing of six (6) feet should be maintained as much as possible and close contact should be limited. Handwashing or the use of hand sanitizer is required before and after close contact with individuals. Gloves are not required for those circumstances where touching another individual is required for physical exam. However, if an individual being examined asks that the examiner put gloves on, that request must be honored.

Exam gloves will be available in every Simulation Center event setting.

Gowns
The use of patient gowns is permitted. All used cloth patient gowns will need to be placed in a laundry hamper when finished. Used paper gowns will need to be placed in the trash.

**Laptops and Headphones**

Students and faculty should try to limit bringing any non-essential items into Simulation Center, i.e. coats, bags, etc. These items can be stored in lockers, if available, throughout the buildings. Students may bring their own laptops into Simulation Center events. The external surfaces of the student owned laptops must be cleaned prior to setting them on any work surfaces. All Simulation Center computer keyboards will be covered with plastic keyboard covers that must be disinfected in-between use. Many simulation events require students to observe one another using designated GVSU computers. Students may bring their own headphones to use in the Simulation Center with the GVSU computers. The computers in the Simulation Center do not have Bluetooth capabilities. For students that chose to use the headphones provided by the Simulation Center, after use, the students will be responsible for disinfecting the headphones with the provided cleaning solution.

**Paper and Linen**

The transmission of COVID-19 from touching paper or linen is minimal (Ren, et. al, 2020). In fact, absorbent materials like cotton are safer than non-absorptive materials like isolation gowns (Ren et. al, 2020). However, the use of paper forms or assessments, patient curtains, pillows, and linens during events will be discouraged, due to the difficulty of disinfecting them and should only be used when necessary. When these items are needed, individuals should make sure to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before touching or retrieving items. Any paper forms or assessments should be made available to students electronically or laminated to allow for disinfection. All used linens will need to be placed in a laundry hamper when finished.

**Food and Drinks**

When breaks are needed, students should be released in shifts in small numbers. Students may eat in designated areas within the buildings on the Health Campus or in outside spaces. No food or drinks will be allowed in the Simulation Center except for labs where food preparation or food for functional physical evaluations and treatment are part of the course objectives. Individuals that are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will not be allowed to take their face mask off to participate in consuming any food or beverages in the Simulation Center. Individuals are considered to be fully vaccinated after two weeks of receiving their final COVID-19 vaccine dose. All fully vaccinated individuals should practice six (6) feet of social distancing when face masks are removed in Simulation Center spaces to consume any food or beverages.

**Cleaning and Disinfection**

GVSU academic spaces including the Simulation Center are treated with MicrobeCare. MicrobeCare is a long-lasting protective coating that molecularly bonds to all surfaces. The solution destroys microbes, disrupting the growth process and making it unable to reproduce, effectively destroying potentially harmful organisms. The product is safe for skin, clothes, and the environment.

During the academic year, campus custodial services will take care of the floors and trash within the GVSU Simulation Center spaces, but it is everyone’s responsibility to clean shared surfaces after individual use. GVSU Facilities Services will supply disinfection solutions specific to COVID-19 which will be available throughout the Simulation Center.

Individuals will be responsible for cleaning all surface tops and equipment they come in contact with during Simulation Center laboratory events. Cleaning towels will be provided throughout the Simulation Center along
with posted directions on how to properly use the cleaning solutions and what cleaning products are safe for specific equipment (see Appendix B). Individuals must wear gloves when using cleaning solutions and wash their hands or use hand sanitizer afterwards. Cleaning towels, once used for cleaning must be placed in the laundry hampers available throughout the Simulation Center. The cleaning towels will be washed by a University contracted service that meets OSHA healthcare standards.

Continuous evaluation of cleaning and sanitation best practices will be monitored by the Simulation Center staff and changes made to cleaning procedures will be updated as needed.

**Standardized Patient Events**

Standardized patients will be required to wear a minimum, a 3-ply disposable procedure face mask during all in-person student interactions. A 3-ply disposable procedure face mask will be provided for each event. Standardized patients may wear an N95 face mask without the respiratory valve or KN95 face mask in place of a 3-ply procedure face mask.

For events requiring close contact (within six (6) feet), in addition to a 3-ply procedure face mask, standardized patients will be provided, upon request, one face shield or goggles, based on their preference.

In-between student encounters, standardized patients will be required to clean surface areas they or the students examining them come in contact with.

**High Fidelity Manikin Events**

Simulation Center staff members will be responsible for cleaning any surfaces students come in contact with during high fidelity manikin events, including the manikins.

**Student or Faculty Led Practice Events**

Student or faculty led practice events are allowable when Simulation Center spaces are not in use for scheduled course events. However, the procedures outlined above must be followed.

**Post Events**

In order to accommodate subsequent Simulation Center events, students and faculty will be asked to leave the Simulation Center after the conclusion of the event’s designated timeframe.

Individuals who develop symptoms or are diagnosed with COVID-19 following attendance at a face to face event in the Simulation Center are required to complete the self-report COVID-19 screening survey.

**Checking-out Materials**

Students and faculty may continue to check out equipment from the GVSU Simulation Center. All equipment returned will be subject (when applicable) to cleaning with COVID-19 specific disinfectant solutions. According to a recent study conducted by the REALM Project team (2020), a trace amount of COVID-19 was found on paper products after four (4) days of isolation. Paper items such as physical assessments may also continued to be checked out of the GVSU Simulation Center at everyone’s own risk.

**Replenish Food Resource**

The Replenish Food Resource will continue to be available to those in need Monday thru Friday, 8am-5pm in CHS 343.
References


Appendix A

Self-report COVID-19 Screening Survey Links

Students/Faculty/Staff: https://www.gvsu.edu/hro/selfassessment-entry-edit.htm

Appendix B

Cleaning Solution, Contact Time, Directions, and Approved Use

I. Product: 70% Isopropyl Alcohol/30% Distilled Water Spray

Required Contact Time: Five (5) minutes

Directions:
1. Put on disposable exam gloves.
2. Pre-Clean shield or surfaces of all visible debris with soap and water.
3. Spray Alcohol solution on shield or surfaces. (*Do NOT use on any electronic surfaces not included in the list of approved electronic surfaces below.*)
4. Keep surface wet for five (5) minutes.
5. Let air dry or wipe surface clean with paper towel after five (5) minutes.
6. Remove and discard disposable gloves & thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

Approved for:
Face shields/goggles
All manikins
Injection pads
All task trainer models
IV lines
Foley catheters
Chest tubes
Blood pressure cuffs
Thermometers
Pulse oximeters
Demo-dose medication vials
Herman Miller cabinet equipment
Bedrails
Hospital bed control buttons
Laptop external surfaces
Soft sling-backs of wheelchairs

Light switches
Chairs
Tables
Door Knobs
Sinks
Keyboard Covers
Computer mice
Monitors
Headphones
Phones
Walkie-talkies

II. Product: Husky 814 Q/T Tuberculocidal spray

Required Contact Time: One (1) minute

Directions:
1. Put on disposable exam gloves.
2. Pre-Clean surface first by removing visible dirt or debris with soap and water.
3. Spray HUSKY solution on hard, non-porous surfaces. (*Do NOT use on any electronic surfaces*).
4. Surfaces must remain wet for one (1) minute.
5. Wipe surface clean after one (1) minute.
6. Remove and discard disposable gloves & thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

Approved for:
Hard, non-porous surfaces  
Tables  
Non-porous surfaces of wheelchairs  
Mat tables  
Plinth/Exam tables  
Overbed tables  
Bedside tables  
Exercise equipment  
Chairs  
Rolling stools  
Door knobs  
Light switchers

III. Product: Protex Disinfectant Spray

Required Contact Time: One (1) minute

Directions:
1. Put on disposable exam gloves
2. Pre-clean surface first by removing visible dirt or debris with spray and wiping clean, or, *if safe for the equipment*, use soap and water.
3. Spray 6-8” from surface, until surface is thoroughly wet. (*Do NOT* use on any electronic surface).
4. Surfaces must remain wet for **one (1) minute**.
5. Allow surface to Air Dry or Wipe surface clean after **one (1) minute**.
6. Remove and discard disposable gloves & thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

Approved for:
Hard, non-porous surfaces
Exercise equipment
Ultrasound transducers and probes.

IV. Product: PDI Super Sani Cloth Disposable Wipes

Required Contact Time: One (1) minute

Directions:
1. Put on disposable exam gloves
2. Pre-Clean surface first by removing visible dirt or debris with soap and water or an additional PDI Super Sani Cloth.
3. Wipe entire surface thoroughly with wipe(s).
4. Surfaces must remain wet for **one (1) minute**.
5. Allow surface to Air Dry or Wipe surface clean after the **one (1) minute**.
6. Dispose of wipes in the trash. Then remove and discard disposable gloves & thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

Approved for:
Hard, non-porous surfaces with relatively small amounts of surface area and Butterfly probes. Use other disinfectants, when possible, as the supply of these wipes is very limited.

V. Product: Bissell Sanitize Spray and Clorox Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant

Required Contact Time: One (1) minute

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Directions:
1. Put on disposable exam gloves
2. Pre-clean surface first by removing visible dirt or debris with spray and wiping clean, or, if safe for the equipment, use soap and water.
3. Spray 6-8” from surface, until surface is thoroughly wet. Do NOT spray directly on any electronic surfaces.
4. Surfaces must remain wet for one (1) minute.
5. Allow surface to Air Dry or Wipe surface clean after the one (1) minute.
6. Remove and discard disposable gloves & thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

Approved for:
Hard, non-porous surfaces
Exercise equipment