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SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR ON-SITE EVENTS IN THE CLINICAL SKILLS LAB

DESCRIPTION

The guidelines by which the Simulation Core (SC) can resume on-site activities in the Clinical Skills Lab (CSL) and minimize the risk to all simulation participants of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

RATIONALE

To clarify the guidelines by which the College’s Education Simulation Core (SC) conducts skills training on-site at Baylor College of Medicine Main Campus while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. These guidelines are designed to ensure on-site events and activities are delivered in a way that provides a safe working and learning environment for faculty, learners, standardized patients, and SC staff.

STAKEHOLDERS AFFECTED BY THESE GUIDELINES

These guidelines apply to all faculty, learners, standardized patients, and SC staff who will be on-site for simulation activities and events. All participants are required to read, understand, and comply with these guidelines.

DEFINITIONS

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – equipment that is worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious injuries or infections. SC event participants are always required to wear face masks and face shields. Supplemental PPE (gowns, shoe covers, etc.) may be required at the discretion of the SC staff. Appropriate disposal containers will be provided in the CSL.

On-site Simulation Activities – clinical skills training for learners that uses standardized patients in simulated exam rooms equipped with authentic medical equipment and supplies. Held in the Clinical Skills Lab facilities, on-site simulation training is considered essential for the student’s academic progression, for safe clinical practice, and cannot be gained by any other hybrid or online modality.

Cleaning – the action of making something clean and free of dirt without chemical use.

Disinfection – cleaning with a chemical to destroy bacteria and other contaminants on surfaces.

EPA – The Environmental Protection Agency’s mission is to protect human and environmental health by regulating with different rules and guidelines.

CDC – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is one of the major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services that protect Americans from health, safety, and security threats.

COVID-19 – a pandemic disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that can spread from person to person.

PPE – personal protective equipment that is worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious injuries or infections.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the SC executive director to ensure all on-site faculty, learners, standardized patients, and SC staff adhere to the guidelines.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

Health Screening: All event participants must complete online health screening before entering the building. The College will screen for temperature using infrared monitors at building entrances (Cullen Main and TMC Garage 6). Only learners scheduled for an event are permitted into the SC laboratories and classrooms.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): All individuals who enter the main campus building must wear a cloth face mask that covers the nose and mouth. Vented masks, neck gaiters, and bandanas are not allowed.

All event participants in the CSL exam rooms must wear a face mask and a face shield. Supplemental PPE (gowns, shoe covers, etc.) may be required at the discretion of the SC staff. Appropriate disposal containers will be provided in the SC laboratories and classrooms.

Handwashing: Participants are required to wash their hands (per CDC guidelines) before and after the event. Hand sanitizer is also available in the simulation labs.

Supplies: Essential cleaning supplies required for on-site simulation activities include hand sanitizer and EPA approved disinfectant wipes or disinfectant spray (70% alcohol solution) used with clean disposable cloths.

Physical Distancing: Events are scheduled with the minimum required and maximum allowed participants. SC laboratories and classrooms are laid out (furniture and equipment) to maximize all participants' ability to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet.

For scenarios that limit the opportunity for physical distancing (e.g., a physical exam of standardized patients), the event will be choreographed in a way that ensures the best use of space between participants. Face shields (in addition to face masks) will be required for this type of activity.

The maximum occupancy for each space in the CSL is based on physical distancing standards and optimal room layout. A summary of the attendance density allowed in SC spaces is shown in Addendum A.

Scheduling: Event sessions are scheduled with breaks that allow standardized patients and SC staff to clean and sanitize surfaces, materials, and equipment. Scheduled breaks also decrease airborne exposure between groups. Learners will be scheduled to arrive, staged in a designated area, and called into the exam rooms at the appropriate time. Learners are not allowed to congregate in the CSL corridors, classrooms, or exam rooms, and they must leave promptly at the end of their session.

Cleaning: Cleaning and decontamination of all equipment and surfaces are completed following College, CDC, and equipment manufacturer guidelines. CSL cleaning guidelines are outlined in Addendum B.

ADDENDUM A

SIMULATION CORE OCCUPANCY GUIDELINES

Clinical Skills Lab (CSL) Maximum Room Occupancy

Room	Description	Maximum Occupancy
M419.1-14	Exam Rooms	2 in each exam room
M421	Classroom	12
M423	Classroom	15
M403/405	Study Room	4
M413/414	Study Room	4
Corridor	Circulation/Staging	12

ADDENDUM B

SIMULATION CORE CLEANING AND SANITATION GUIDELINES

Cleaning and Disinfecting Electronics

Follow the manufacturer's guidelines if available. Otherwise, disinfect by 1) dampening a clean cloth with a 70% isopropyl alcohol solution, 2) wiping surfaces, and 3) allow air drying. Avoid using bleach and abrasives on touch screens.

Clinical Skills Exam Rooms (M419.1-14) Cleaning Procedures

Each exam room will have a spray bottle with 70% alcohol solution and clean disposable cloths.

Standardized Patients are allowed approximately 10 minutes between student encounters to clean and disinfect surfaces, supplies, and equipment in the exam rooms according to the following procedure:

1. Disinfect surfaces by 1) dampening a clean cloth with 70% alcohol solution, 2) wiping, and 3) allowing to air dry. Exam room surfaces include doorknobs, desks, computers, keyboards, side table, exam table, dimmer switch, gooseneck lamps, tuning fork, hammer, sundry jars, and light switches.
2. Dispose of used exam table paper and replace it by pulling down and covering the table. Extra rolls of paper are located under each exam table.
3. Wipe down the diagnostic panel (Blood pressure cuff, otoscope, and ophthalmoscope) with 70% alcohol spray and a clean cloth.
4. Discard all used cotton applicators, tongue depressors, Kleenex, drapes, and cotton balls in the trash after use.