

## MedStar Health Academic Affairs

COVID-19 Pandemic

### Prioritization of Learners & Educational Experiences

July 1, 2020

#### PURPOSE

In order to ensure the safety of all of our associates, learners, and patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have established the following guidelines related to all Clinical Learning Environments (CLEs) within all MedStar Health entities.

#### GUIDELINES

**1) Goals include continuity of care and continuity of education throughout the pandemic response.**

Background and intent: It is MedStar Health's goal to fulfill the organizational vision of *advancing health* with continuity of educational activities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2) Learners are not excluded from the care of COVID+ patients or Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 illness.**

Background and intent: It is our collective responsibility to teach the next generation of health care professionals how to safely care for patients in the setting of COVID-19, and any future pandemic, through active participation coupled with appropriate supervision.

**3) The minimum necessary number of learners should participate in the care of COVID+ patients or PUI.**

Background and intent: Care teams are empowered to identify solutions that will allow all learners embedded on a unit, floor, clinic, or team to continue to safely participate in aspects of care, while at the same time balancing opportunities for growth with the potential exposure risks to learners or patients.

**4) Minimize "layering" of learners to protect learners, educators, patients, and all health care workers, as well as to remain judicious in the utilization of PPE.**

Background and intent: Strategies to minimize "layering" – defined as multiple learners of the same team providing care at the bedside for a patient – should be employed. Additional layering can be considered for **more senior learners** and/or when the opportunity to participate in **less frequently encountered** clinical experiences arises. As with any aspect of care, **patients should be engaged** in this discussion.

**5) Each program and/or service line should establish a workflow that incorporates these principles to allow for continuity of care and continuity of education in the CLE.**