

Weekly Serial Swabbing for COVID-19 Update

Effective August 6, 2022



Marshfield Clinic Health System

To align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the new Marshfield Clinic Health System (MCHS) employee process, Student Programs will be putting on hold/pause all Weekly COVID testing required for those with a COVID vaccine exemption. This pause is due to the rapid cycle of the Omicron variant, and the current COVID-19 surge that is adding tremendous pressure to our staff and resources.

All students are required to get N95 fit tested, and proceed to wear an N95 at all times when on site.

If a student has previously been fit tested by another medical institution -or- educational facility, students may present their N95 fit card to the assigned unit. The N95 fit card must show the manufacturer type and assigned size. This information is necessary to determine an equivalent N95 mask or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) assignment.

However, if a student has not been properly fit tested, the MCHS-Occupational Health department will provide this service for students. When calling to make an appointment, please let the Occupational Health department know the Fit testing is 'for a student and the costs associated for the fit testing will now be covered by the Division of Education, Student Programs department'. Please contact the Occupational Health department to coordinate an appointment at 715-389-4799.

We kindly request students do not contact the MCHS Employee Health department for this level of assistance.

Due to the high transmission of COVID, Marshfield Clinic (MCHS) is providing the following guidance:

- Fully vaccinated students are highly recommended in direct patient care areas to wear an N95 mask.
- In accordance with the recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) directive, students who received a MCHS vaccine exemption will be required to wear an N95 respirator onsite **at all times – in patient care areas and non-patient care areas.**
 - MCHS reserves the right to resume weekly COVID-19 PCR for non-vaccinated students.
- If the Occupational Health Department determines the student is unable to wear an N95 respirator at all times inside our facilities because of proper fitting, the student will remain on the required PCR weekly testing program. Students must upload their weekly PCR test results to the following link: [COVID Weekly Exemption](#)
- **MCHS continues to be a proactive resource in providing the COVID vaccination to non-employees and patients.**
 - Please visit: <https://www.marshfieldclinic.org/specialties/infectious-diseases/covid-19-vaccine> for more information or call 877-998-0880 for an appointment.

How to wear an N95 respirator

Students are required to be N95 respirator fit tested.

- Students with facial hair may be required to shave to ensure proper fitting.
- Students should use extended use strategies for N95 respirators (wearing of the same respirator for multiple patients or extended time). Once an N95 respirator is removed, or when it becomes soiled or hard to breathe through, dispose of the N95 respirator. For example, you can wear the N95 respirator until your lunch break and dispose of it. Then, get a new N95 respirator for your shift after lunch. MCHS currently has ample supply of N95 respirators to support this recommendation.

[This guide shows images and instructions on how to properly wear and take off an N95 respirator.](#)

Positive COVID tests

Students are encouraged to follow their educational institutional policies regarding a positive COVID test, and following proper CDC quarantine guidelines. Students with positive test results must be medically cleared before resuming their clinical rotation. This documentation is to be submitted to the Student Programs department.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this time.