

# COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS

## DURING TRINITY-TUD DIETETICS PLACEMENTS

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### Eligibility for placement

Placement should proceed where students can be safely accommodated. Placement in a healthcare setting may need to be avoided or delayed if a student:

- Is at higher risk of serious illness if COVID-19 is contracted
- Is a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 in the 14 days pre-placement
- Has experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the 14 days prior to placement commencing

### Living circumstances

If a student lives with a vulnerable person and they are concerned about transmitting infection, alternative accommodation for the duration of placement should be considered.

If a member of a student's household tests positive for COVID-19, students must:

- Stay home
- Inform the Practice Education Coordinator and Student Coordinator
- Contact their GP or College Health for advice on testing

### Travelling to and from placement

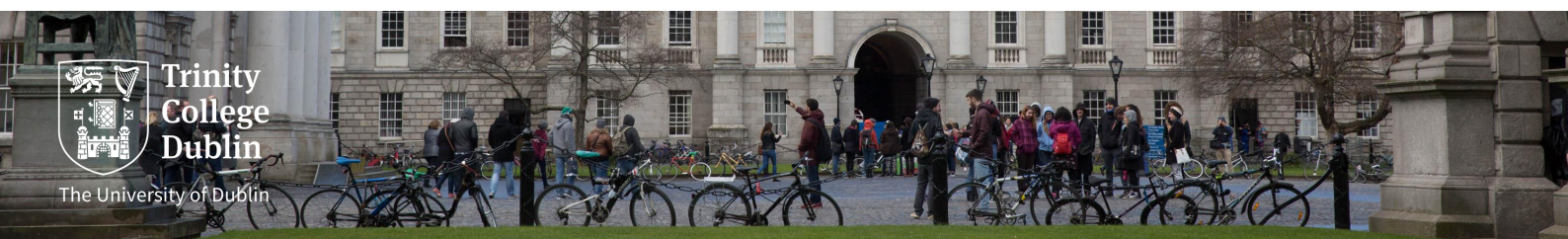
Students must follow HSE guidance on staff travel during COVID-19.

### Uniform etiquette

Students must:

- Follow the dress code specified in the placement handbook
- Wear a newly laundered uniform everyday
- Bring their uniform into work in a bag and take it home in a bag
- Wash uniform in a 60 degree cycle every evening

In line with HSE guidance, mustaches and beards should be removed, as they can interfere with the seal of masks.



## Personal items

Limited storage space will be available for personal items such as bags and laptops. Personal items needed during a work day should be kept to a minimum.

## Working hours during placement

The length of the working day will vary depending on the placement site. Students can clarify their working hours with their Practice Educators over the course of placement.

## Social distancing on placement

Social distancing should be maintained where possible. Where social distancing is not possible or practicable, appropriate PPE must be worn.

## PPE and hygiene practices

Local policy and HSE guidance on the use of PPE must be adhered to. If a student is uncertain about the type of PPE that should be worn, they must consult a member of staff.

- Students must observe recommended hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette
- Students must be bare below the elbow at all times

Failure to comply with infection control measures will result in a professional warning.

## Treatment of patients with COVID-19

HSE guidance on minimising the risk of contracting COVID-19 in a health setting must be followed.

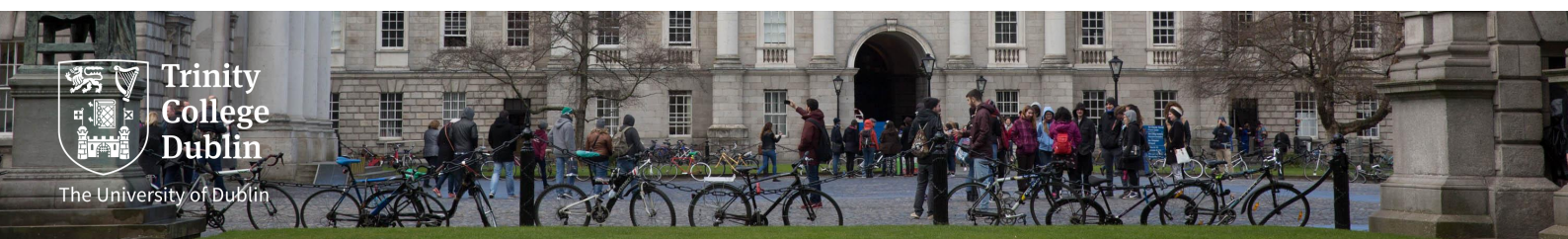
Given the potential significant disruption to their learning if absence from placement is required, students should not be exposed to patients who have tested positive for COVID-19, where possible.

## Placement documentation and assessment processes

All documentation and assessment processes remain the same unless otherwise indicated by the Practice Education Coordinator in Trinity.

## Behaviour outside placement

Students must adhere at all times to government guidance on reducing the spread of COVID-19. This reduces the risk of carrying COVID-19 into a clinical setting and putting others at risk.



## Part-time work

If a student has a job in a healthcare environment, e.g. nursing home, they must cease work two weeks prior to placement commencing. Students are not permitted to work in another healthcare environment during clinical placement.

## Procedure if COVID-19 symptoms are experienced

Fever | Cough | Shortness of breath | Loss of, or change to, sense of smell and/or taste

1. Stay home, or if on-site when symptoms commence, leave placement immediately
2. Call/Email the Practice Education Coordinator in College and your Student Coordinator
3. Contact your GP or College Health regarding the need for a test
4. Self-isolate in line with HSE guidelines
5. Inform the Practice Education Coordinator in College and Student Coordinator of the test result

If you test positive for COVID-19:

1. Engage with relevant Occupational Health departments during contact tracing, as needed
2. Obtain a letter from your GP or College Health confirming you are safe to return to placement
3. Liaise with the Practice Education Coordinator in College and Dietitian Manager on a return date

If you test negative for COVID-19:

1. Liaise with the Practice Education Coordinator in College and Dietitian Manager on a return date
2. Return to work once you are 48h without symptoms
3. Adhere to HSE guidance on returning to work

## CORU hours and absence from placement due to COVID-19

If a student must absent themselves due to suspected or confirmed symptoms of COVID-19, the College will review any shortfall in placement hours with the student and placement setting. Students will not be disadvantaged by absence from placement due to COVID-19.

## Important contacts

College Health Service	01 896 1591 or 01 896 1556
HSE Public Advice Line	1850 241 850
HSE website	<a href="https://www.healthservice.hse.ie">healthservice.hse.ie</a>

