

## Social Work Field Practicum COVID-19 Information: Questions and Answers

**\*\*Please check back periodically as document will be updated\*\***

BSW and MSW students completing field practica are expected to be familiar with and follow all public health guidelines in the jurisdiction of their placement, as well as agency-specific protocols in relation to COVID-19. The following Q & A document is intended to address common questions you may have in relation to the pandemic and your placement.

- How do I access the MUN COVID-19 Awareness training?
  - The MUN COVID-19 Awareness training is available through Memorial's online training platform Brightspace. The training takes about 30 minutes to complete. You can register [here](#) and login with your Memorial login credentials, which are the same as you use for my.mun.ca.
  - The MUN COVID-19 Awareness training is **mandatory** and must be completed prior to starting your practicum. Once you have completed the training, please submit a certificate of completion to Lisa Muise at [lmuisse@mun.ca](mailto:lmuisse@mun.ca).
  
- What do I do if I think the placement agency is not following public health guidelines?
  - You are encouraged to discuss your concerns with your field instructor (and agency mentor) as soon as possible. You can also contact your field liaison at any time with your concerns.
  
- Do I need to wear a face mask at my agency?
  - Follow the guidelines that your agency has in place. The current public health guidelines state that in any alert level you must maintain a physical distance of at least 2 arm lengths, and that you should wear a non-medical or cloth mask when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
  
- What if I have to self-isolate during my practicum?
  - Follow the advice of the local public health authority as to your need for self-isolation.
  - Please inform your **field instructor** (and **agency mentor**) and **field liaison** about your situation.
  - Your field liaison will work with you and the agency to develop a plan for you to continue your practicum.

- What happens if my agency moves to providing remote services only?
  - If you are notified your field practicum will be moved remotely, please notify your field liaison immediately.
  - Where possible, your field liaison will work with you and the agency to develop a plan for you to continue your practicum remotely.
  
- Will I still have access to my field instructor if my agency moves to remote service delivery?
  - You may or may not continue to have access to your field instructor in the event of a move to remote learning and/or second wave.
  - Where possible, your field liaison will work with you and the agency to develop a plan for you to continue your practicum remotely.
  - If there are any changes to your field practicum, for example, moving remotely or being notified by your agency that you cannot continue your practicum, please notify your field liaison immediately. Where possible, your field liaison will work with you and the agency to develop a plan for you to continue your practicum remotely.
  
- What if I come in contact with someone who has COVID-19 in my field setting?
  - You are expected to follow all necessary precautions to avoid exposure to COVID-19, while recognizing there are no guarantees given the nature of the pandemic and social work practice.
  - If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19, you must immediately contact your local public health authority (811 in NL) and they will provide instructions on how to proceed for your situation.
  - In your field setting, you must report this to your field instructor and field liaison immediately.
  
- What will happen if I no longer feel comfortable doing my practicum due to COVID-19?
  - You should discuss your concerns with your field instructor, (agency mentor), and field liaison.
  - The MUN School of Social Work Student-School Agreement outlines procedures for all parties (Student, Agency, School) to follow in the event changes are required to a practicum.

- What if someone I live with has to self-isolate?
  - As per the current public health guidelines in NL, if you live with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, then you must self-isolate.
  - If you are living with someone who is returning from out-of-province travel, you do not self-isolate unless the traveler or you are displaying COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., two or more of fever/signs of fever, cough, headache, sore throat, painful swallowing, runny nose, unexplained loss of appetite, diarrhea, loss of sense of smell or taste OR experiencing small red or purple spots on the hands and/or feet).
  - For guidance on self-isolation in NL, please visit the [NL Life with COVID-19 website](#). If living outside NL, follow the advice of the local public health authority in your jurisdiction.
  
- If I think I have symptoms of COVID-19, who should I contact?
  - You are expected to follow the protocol of the local public health authority for reporting symptoms of COVID-19.
  - In NL, students should self-isolate at the first onset of symptoms and complete the [self-assessment](#) online or call 811.
  - Inform your field instructor and field liaison.
  
- Where can I find support for my mental health and well-being during my practicum?
  - The Student Wellness and Counselling Centre (SWCC) website offers a number of online and phone-based community mental health and wellness supports.
  - To book an appointment with a counsellor at the SWCC please email [swccwellness@mun.ca](mailto:swccwellness@mun.ca) . Please include your full name, student number, current residential address and phone number in your email request.
  
- Who do I contact if I still have questions about COVID-19 and my social work practicum?
  - Please refer to the [BSW Field Manual](#) or [MSW Field Manual](#) for general information about your practicum. Please speak to your field instructor and field liaison if you have questions specific to COVID-19 and your practicum.