



Policy Title:	COVID-19 Prevention and Response	No.: 1.14
Approved By:	Director of Dietetics	
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Audience:	Students, Practice Education Partners, Faculty and Staff	

Preamble

The UBC Dietetics Major Program is committed to advancing equity, diversity and inclusion for the Program and dietetics profession, as it relates to the Program’s vision of inspiring learners to advance dietetic practice and food systems. Our core values of justice, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, and community-focus drive our approaches to Program planning, delivery, evaluation, and community engagement.

The Program is located on UBC’s Point Grey Campus, which is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam). Practice education placements take place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of many Indigenous peoples, in locations throughout present day British Columbia. The Program recognizes the original stewards of these lands, and engages in ongoing efforts towards decolonization of the Program and the dietetics profession.

The Program is committed to the safety of students, faculty and staff, and affiliated partners involved in the delivery of dietetics education. This policy articulates the roles, responsibilities, and approaches to decision-making with respect to COVID-19 and its impact on the Program. As the COVID-19 situation is constantly evolving, updates to Program policies and supplementary guidance will be ongoing as new information emerges.

Abbreviations

BC	British Columbia
BCCDC	British Columbia Centre for Disease Control
CAIRS	Centralized Accident and Incident Reporting System
CSC	Core Site Coordinators
ICDEP	Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice
LFS	Faculty of Land and Food Systems
PHO	Provincial Health Officer
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
the Program	UBC Dietetics Major Program
UBC	University of British Columbia



Definitions

These definitions are based on currently available information from the [BCCDC](#). Due to the evolving nature of COVID-19, these definitions are subject to change and/or further interpretation from health care organizations and public health officials.

Exposure

An individual is considered to have been exposed to COVID-19 if they:

- spent more than 15 minutes within 2 meters of someone confirmed to have COVID-19, while the person had symptoms or in the 48 hours before their symptoms started
- AND
- were not wearing the recommended PPE during the interaction

Outbreak

An outbreak is generally described as transmission that occurs within a specific setting (e.g., between colleagues in a workplace, or between residents in a long-term care facility). The specific number of cases that constitute an outbreak may differ between settings. Definition and declaration of an outbreak is determined by local Medical Health Officers.

Policy

The Program design and delivery will be continually assessed to ensure that dietetics education can be provided safely during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Approaches to decision making are informed by guidance and directives from the BC Government, Ministries of Health and Advanced Education, Skills & Training, the Provincial Health Officer, regional Medical Health Officers, BC Health Authorities, practice education partner organizations, UBC and LFS senior leadership and others as applicable.

Program faculty, staff and students are required to follow [all PHO orders](#), as well as any specific directives from UBC, LFS, local public health agencies and practice education partner organizations. The Program implements [COVID-19 Safety Plans](#), in accordance with direction from the BC Government, UBC and LFS.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses significant challenges for student health and well-being. A variety of mental health and support services are available to UBC students through [Student Services](#). Students with concerns about their ability to fully participate in the Program during COVID-19 are directed to seek available supports and refer to Dietetics Program Policy [Health, Disability and Personal Issues Impacting Program Participation](#).



Campus Component of the Program

UBC's [COVID-19 Response](#) outline expectations for students, faculty and staff including, but not limited to:

- Prevention of COVID-19 transmission,
- Self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms,
- COVID-19 testing,
- Self-isolation requirements

Program students, faculty and staff are expected to follow these rules when on UBC campus, as well as any additional directives from the [Faculty of Land and Food Systems](#).

Decisions to modify campus-based activities and courses will be made at the University and/or Faculty level. The Program will align with these decisions when applicable and relevant (e.g. Program courses may be delivered online versus on campus).

Practice Education Component of the Program

Practice education is a necessary component of the Program, to ensure students meet the ICDEP. In accordance with the [Ministry of Health Student Practice Education Guideline](#), the Program will continue practice education placements, with safety modifications as needed, to ensure that practice-ready dietetic graduates are available to enter the health workforce.

Placement length, location, and specific activities may need to be modified to ensure the safety of students, preceptors, clients, practice education partner organization employees, and members of the public. Decisions to modify placements will be made collaboratively between the Program, the practice education partner organization(s) and others as relevant.

The Program will ensure that preceptors supervising students are offered orientation and supported with any COVID-19 related changes to practice education policies, procedures, teaching approaches etc.

The COVID-19 pandemic may impact the health system's capacity to engage in student practice education requirements such as: N95 respiratory mask fitting, provision of immunizations/screening, (e.g. TB skin testing), and in-person orientation and training (e.g. provincial violence prevention workshop). The Program will modify these requirements when possible (e.g. remote versus in-person delivery of workshops), or temporarily suspend some requirements, as directed by the PHO and/or practice education partner organizations.

Students are required to follow all organizational (e.g. UBC, practice education partner) and public health directives regarding COVID-19 vaccines; Dietetics Program Policy [Immunization Review Requirements](#) articulates student immunization requirements and procedures for practice education.

Students will have access to necessary PPE and associated training, provided by the practice education partner organization, to ensure that students can safely engage in practice education activities. In the event of PPE shortages or inability to provide sufficient orientation and training for



PPE use (e.g. N95 respirator fit testing), students will not be asked to engage in placement activities that put their safety at risk.

Practice education students must complete a daily self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms using the [BCCDC Self-Assessment Tool](#), and follow all instructions for COVID-19 testing and self-isolation as directed by the Self-Assessment Tool results. Students with symptoms who need to stay home from practice education should report absences to their preceptor and Core Site Coordinator. Decisions on any adjustments to placements will be made collaboratively between the practice education partner organization and the Program.

To minimize student exposure to COVID-19 and preserve placement site PPE supplies, Program students will not be involved in face-to-face care of presumed or confirmed COVID-19 positive patients/clients. Students can be involved in care activities on site that do not involve face-to-face contact, using phone/video and available patient/client records. Students will follow any additional placement site policies and directives regarding involvement of students in the care of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive patients/clients.

Students can be present on COVID-19 designated units if they are involved in the care of non-COVID-19 positive patients/clients, as long as this is allowable by the placement site policies and directives.

Any student who has been exposed to COVID-19 in the community or at a practice education placement site should follow all directions from public health officials and/or the placement site regarding COVID-19 symptom monitoring, testing, self-isolation and safe return to placement site.

Procedure

I. Campus Component of the Program

Action	Who	When
1. Review UBC and LFS COVID-19 policies, procedures and directives to determine implications for campus-based curriculum	UBC Dietetics Team	Ongoing
2. Communicate Program COVID-19 expectations to dietetics students	UBC Dietetics Team	Ongoing
3. Review and respond to COVID-19 communications and expectations from UBC, LFS and the Program, as required	Students	As directed
4. Monitor any changes to COVID-19 policies, procedures and directives, and communicate to students.	UBC Dietetics Team	Ongoing



Action	Who	When
5. Identify and communicate any COVID-19 related issues that will impact the Program’s ability to comply with national accreditation standards	Director of Dietetics	As issues arise

II. Practice Education Component of the Program

Action	Who	When
1. Review COVID-19 policies, procedures and directives from the BC Government, UBC, and practice education partner organizations to determine implications for practice education curriculum	UBC Dietetics Team	Ongoing
2. Communicate Program COVID-19 expectations to students and practice education partners	UBC Dietetics Team	Ongoing
3. Review and respond to COVID-19 communications and expectations from the Program and practice education partner organizations, as required	Students	As directed
4. Monitor any changes to COVID-19 policies, procedures and directives, and communicate to students and practice education partners	UBC Dietetics Team	Ongoing
5. Identify and communicate any COVID-19 related issues that will impact the Program’s ability to comply with national accreditation standards	Director of Dietetics	As issues arise

Adjustments to Practice Education Placements

1. Identify placements likely to be impacted by COVID-19 and explore options for adjustment, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortening overall practice education length, with ensuring that reduced hours/weeks still meets ICDEP and dietetics accreditation requirements • Rescheduling placements to lower-risk settings/locations • Incorporation of simulation activities to achieve competencies when appropriate 	UBC Dietetics Team, with CSC and/or relevant others	As issues arise
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Action	Who	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranging for students to engage in placement activities remotely/virtually when appropriate 		
2. Communicate practice education adjustments to students, placement sites and affected others	UBC Dietetics Team with CSC and/or relevant others	When adjustments to practice education are needed
3. Document adjustments made to practice education placements and monitor student progress towards achievement of ICDEP	UBC Dietetics Team, with CSC, preceptors and relevant others	Following adjustments made to practice education placements
4. Consult with BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training if safe continuation of practice education is at risk	Director of Dietetics	As issues arise
5. If all options for practice education modification have been exhausted, make decision to temporarily suspend practice education placements	Director of Dietetics	In the event of an unavoidable suspension to practice education
6. Communicate decision to temporarily suspend practice education to students, practice education partners and any affected others	UBC Dietetics Team	Following decision to suspend practice education
7. Monitor COVID-19 situation and collaborate with practice education partners to resume practice education when feasible	UBC Dietetics Team	As soon as possible following suspension to practice education
8. Communicate plans to resume practice education to students, practice education partners and affected others	UBC Dietetics Team	Once decision made to resume practice education
9. Assess impact of practice education suspension on student progression and graduation timelines	UBC Dietetics Team	Once decision made to resume practice education
10. Collaborate with internal and external Program stakeholders to adjust practice education activities and graduation timelines	UBC Dietetics Team, with LFS, practice education	Once decision made to resume practice education



Action	Who	When
	partners, and relevant others	
11. Communicate adjustments to practice education activities and graduation timelines to students	UBC Dietetics Team	Upon resumption of practice education

Student Pre-Placement Requirements & Practice Education Orientation

1. Assess impact of COVID-19 on student pre-placement requirements and practice education orientation activities	UBC Dietetics Team	Ongoing
2. Adjust current pre-placement requirements and practice education orientation activities to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Relevant COVID-19 information is included b. Activities are completed safely, e.g., arrange for virtual completion when needed c. Activities do not have undesirable effects on health care system functioning e.g., suspend N95 mask fit testing to preserve provincial PPE supply for health care workers 	UBC Dietetics Team, in consultation with practice education partners as applicable	As required
3. Develop new COVID-19 specific pre-placement requirements and practice education orientation activities	UBC Dietetics Team, in consultation with practice education partners as applicable	As required
4. Communicate pre-placement requirements and practice education orientation activities to students and practice education partners. Ensure Dietetics Major COVID-19 webpage contains up-to-date information	UBC Dietetics Team	Ongoing
5. Complete all pre-placement requirements and practice education orientation activities. Refer to the Dietetics Major COVID-19 webpage for up-to-date information on requirements and activities	Students	As directed by UBC Dietetics Team and/or placement agencies

Preceptor and CSC Orientation & Support

1. Develop and deliver preceptor and CSC orientation and continuing education activities per	UBC Dietetics Team	Ongoing
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Action	Who	When
Dietetics Program Policy Practice Education Personnel Roles and Responsibilities		
2. Assess need for specific COVID-19 orientation/education for preceptors and CSC	UBC Dietetics Team, in consultation with practice education partners as applicable	Ongoing
3. Develop and deliver COVID-19 specific orientation and education to preceptors and CSC	UBC Dietetics Team	Prior to the start of each academic year, and throughout year as needs arise
4. Communicate with the Program regarding practice education COVID-19 orientation and education needs	Preceptors and CSC	As needs arise
Student Self-Assessment, Testing & Self-Isolation		
1. Self-assess for COVID-19 symptoms using the BCCDC Self-Assessment Tool	Student	Daily, prior to arrival at practice education site
2. If experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, stay home from practice education, and follow all instructions for testing and self-isolation as directed by the BCCDC Self-Assessment Tool	Student	As soon as symptoms develop
3. Notify preceptor and CSC of need to stay home, due to COVID-19 symptoms	Student	As soon as symptoms develop
4. In the event that symptoms develop while on site during practice education, notify preceptor and CSC immediately	Student	As soon as symptoms develop
Follow all instructions for testing and self-isolation as directed by the BCCDC Self-Assessment Tool . Update preceptor and CSC if time away from placement is required		
5. Discuss modifications to placement that can be made while student is isolating at home, if student is well enough to engage in placement activities, e.g., remote/virtual patient/client care, project work, self-study	Student and Preceptor, with CSC and UBC Dietetics Team as needed	As need arises



Action	Who	When
6. Adjust placement schedule to ensure student has the opportunity to meet competencies, e.g., re-arrange current placement activities, extend current placement, adjust future placements to account for missed learning activities	CSC, with UBC Dietetics Team	As need arises
COVID-19 Exposure & Outbreaks		
1. Notify student of COVID-19 exposure that has occurred during practice education interactions	Placement site and/or public health officials	As soon as exposure is known
NOTE: In the case of a non-practice education exposure, a student will be contacted by local public health officials		
2. In the event of an outbreak at a placement site, decide whether student placements are safe to continue at the affected location/facility	Placement site and/or public health officials	As issues arise
3. Report COVID-19 exposure to preceptor and CSC	Student	As soon as exposure is known
4. Follow all direction from placement site and/or public health officials regarding COVID-19 symptom monitoring, testing, self-isolation and safe return to placement site. Update preceptor and CSC if time away from placement is required	Student	Following exposure
5. Discuss modifications to placement that can be made if student is required to self-isolate, as long as student is well enough to engage in placement activities, e.g., remote/virtual patient/client care, project work, self-study	Student and Preceptor, with CSC and UBC Dietetics Team as needed	As need arises
6. Adjust placement schedule to ensure student has the opportunity to meet competencies, e.g., re-arrange current placement activities, extend current placement, adjust future placements to account for missed learning activities	CSC, with UBC Dietetics Team	As need arises
7. Determine need for a UBC accident/incident report, as per UBC Safety & Risk Services procedures . Complete accident/incident (CAIRS) report as required.	UBC Dietetics Team	As need arises



Reviewed by:

	Action	Date	Status
UBC Safety & Risk Services	Review	December 9, 2020	Endorsed
UBC Dietetic Education Core Council	Review	January 19, 2021	Approved
UBC Dietetics Team	Revise	July 9, 2021	Amended
LFS Faculty Operations Manager	Review	August 18, 2021	Endorsed
Director of Dietetics	Review	August 25, 2021	Approved