



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Atif Qarni
Secretary of Education

May 26, 2020

To: Postsecondary Education Providers in Virginia

From: Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia

Subject: Updated Advisement About Health Care Related Instruction Under Executive Orders 53, 55, 61, 62 and Related Orders.

1. Postsecondary education institutions are responsible for adhering to EO 53, EO 55, EO 61, EO 62 and any other related guidance from the Governor as a result of EO 51 and the Declaration of a State of Emergency of March 20, 2020.
2. For the sake of student safety and liability, students should only be placed into clinical settings if the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a. The training site agrees to accept the student into its environment and to maintain appropriate infection control standards, including making available to the student necessary PPE, as recommended by the CDC and other pertinent federal and state guidance and comparable to the PPE it provides to its employees in similar settings; and
 - b. The student is required to read and sign an Acknowledgement of Risk; and
 - c. The student is given the option to postpone any clinical placement, without academic penalty; however, there shall be an understanding that completion of clinical placement(s) may be required prior to graduation or progression within the academic program.
3. For students enrolled in health professional academic programs, in-person instruction may occur so long as it is done consistently with requirements and advisements otherwise in effect for the Commonwealth at the time. These include but are not necessarily limited to guidance found in EO 53 (i.e., gatherings no greater than 10, minimum six feet separation) as well as subsequent guidance to wear face coverings and sanitize classrooms and labs between uses.
4. Students should be given the option to forego any in-person educational experience—testing or instruction-related—to a later point in time and not be subject to academic penalty for selecting such option.

This advisement was initially issued on April 9, 2020, and has been amended as of May 26, 2020.