

Ponce Health Sciences University

Covid-19 Mandatory Student Testing Temporary Policy



PHSU

PONCE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Tamdiu Discendum Est. Quamdiu Vivas

Policy Number:
PHSU-TP-FL20-072220- Rev

Date Issued:
July 10, 2020

Reviewed Date:
December 10, 2020

Applies to: All active Students and visiting/international students with assigned in-person academic activities and or clinical/ practicum rotations during Fall 2020 Semester/Quarter/Trimester	Owner: ED of Student Affairs Academic Affairs Student Health Services Office	Primary Contact: Student Affairs
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Related Policies: Covid-19 Travel Policy, Covid-19 Temporary Policies

Supporting Forms: Authorization for In-Person Academic Activities, Notification of Inconclusive Result, Notification of Institutional Quarantine

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Covid-19 Mandatory Student Testing- Temporary Policy

Introduction:

Ponce Health Sciences University (PHSU) recognize the urgency for preventive measures to ensure the PHSU Community safety and health. Therefore, PHSU established a Task Force to provide guidance related to Covid-19 prevention. Recommendations from the Task Force included mandatory testing for employees and students before returning to campus activities. For this purpose, the Student Affairs division created an office of Student Health Services (SHS) to centralize all efforts and provide clear instructions and directions for the coordination of testing and management of certifications for student with **Non-Detected** results and orientation and guidance for students with **Detected** results.

I Legal basis:

This provision is established for faithful compliance with the Puerto Rico Government and Health Department regulations and recommendations of the CDC, Health Organizations and the PHSU Task Force for Covid-19.

This policy is approved by the Institutional Administrative Board and is effective as of **Fall 2020**.

II Scope:

This policy applies to all Active PHSU students and/or PHSU's visiting or international students who are assigned to in-person academic activities in Main campus, East Campus and San Juan University Center. It also applies to students assigned to rotations/practicums in Allied Clinical Sites with Covid-19 testing requirements.

III Justification:

The institution recognizes the importance of providing a safe environment in campus amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic the country is experimenting. Based on the CDC, health organizations and governmental entities recommendations the Task Force recommended mandatory employee and student testing prior to reintegration to campus activities.

The Institutional Administrative Board accepted the recommendations to safeguard the PHSU Community health and safety, as well as the health of the communities we serve.

IV Policy:

For such purposes, a student with an in-person academic activity and/or clinical/practicum rotation during the Fall and Spring Semesters of Academic Year 20-21 is required to undergo a Covid-19 preventive test. The Academic Departments will provide an Official Testing Priority List (OTPL) in which they will certify the first day of in-person academic activities to which the student is assigned. This certified date will be referred to as the **start date** of the student. The test must comply with following requirements:

1. PHSU Requires a molecular Covid-19 test (PCR).
2. The sample must be taken no more than seven (7) days before **start date**. (Students assigned to Hospital, Clinical or Practicum Sites must follow the sites recommendations to determine days for the sample.)
3. The test results must be available in the Student Health Services Office (SHSO) or the Student Affairs Office at least two (2) business days prior to **start date**.

Once the student start date is certified by the Academic Department the Student Health Services Coordinator (SHSC) or a designee from the Student Affairs Office will proceed to contact the student and request the test.

The student may select the primary care physician and reference lab of his/her preference as long as the test and test results comply with the requirements specified above. The cost of the test will cover by the student's health insurance and the student.

To facilitate the testing, Student Affairs have coordinated in collaboration with the Wellness Center and INNO Diagnostics lab a process to request the medical orders and provide appointments for the test in the reference lab (based on available spaces). If the student decides to use the PHSU resources the SHSC will send the require documentation with specific instructions for the process to the student's institutional email. Students may authorize the SHSC or a Student Affairs Designee to directly receive the results to expedite the process. Students who do not provide the authorization are responsible for providing the results on time for certification.

Test Results

Non-Detected

Students with Non-Detected or Negative test results **will be authorize** to attend the designated in-person academic activities. A certification will be sent to the Academic Department and credentialing officer for due process. Students may request a copy of the certification by sending an email to studentcovidtest@psm.edu.

Detected

Students with Detected or Positive results **will not be authorized** to attend the designated in-person academic activities. A **Notification of Institutional Quarantine** will be sent from the Student Health Services Office requesting the student to stay in quarantine for at least 10 days. After the quarantine a

Physician must certify the student can be reintegrated. PHSU requires a Non-Detected or Negative molecular test after ten (10) days of quarantine, along with the Physicians certification to authorize a Student reintegration to in-person activities.

Also, the student must comply with the Puerto Rico Department of Health mandates and regulations.

The Student Health Services Coordinator will refer *Detected* cases to Student Affairs for the proper follow up and guidance of academic and administrative processes applicable to the student. Evaluation will be on a case by case basis.

Inconclusive

Students with inconclusive results **will not be authorized** to attend in-person academic activities. PHSU will request the student to repeat the test.

Recent Travelers

PHSU will abide by the Puerto Rico government regulations on recent travelers during the Pandemic.

Students must present a test compliant with the PR Health Department standards at the moment of arrival. A new test sample will be taken on the fifth (5th) day after arrival and/or 5-7 days prior to the first in-person academic activity for the reintegration process. Test results will be managed as indicated in the Test Results section of this policy.

Self-Report and Notification of Exposure

The University has implemented protocols and procedures to allow students to self-report if ; 1) they are diagnosed with Covid-19 or; 2) were exposed to a confirmed Covid-19 patient. With regard to this policy, exposure is defined as “exposed or within close proximity (less than 6 feet) to a confirmed Covid-19 patient for more than 10 minutes without personal protective equipment (PPE)(IE, facemasks). This includes any family or personal scenario(s) along with any clinical setting, or academic exercise where facemasks, face shield and disposable coats should have been worn but were not.

Students must report if they are Covid-19 positive. Protocols for Detected or Positive cases will apply to self-reported cases. Students who have being diagnosed with Covid-19 and/ or have been exposed to a confirmed Covid-19 patient must contact the Student Health Services Coordinator. The SHSC will then conduct a questionnaire that will determine further instructions on how to proceed.

PHSU encourages all students to self-report for the safety of the university community.

V Amendments:

This policy may be amended by the Institutional Administrative Board.

VI Repeal and Validity:

This policy does not repeal the provisions established by other university policies and or governmental agencies regulations, but rather offers specific provisions for students who qualify for mandatory Covid-19 testing.

This policy will be effective for the AY 2020-2021.

VII Approval:



José A. Torres Ruíz, PhD
Chair of Institutional Administrative Board

December, 10, 2020
Date