

This document outlines essential safety information for Clinical Skills Tutors scheduled to teach medical students in-person during COVID-19 restrictions and updates to their tutoring role.

## Safety

UBC has developed an online PPE module which all students entering clinical and non-clinical learning environments during the COVID-19 pandemic are required to take. Some details relevant to clinical skills sessions have been highlighted below, however all tutors are required to review the entire module and are encouraged to pay attention to the information in the module that covers:

- What PPE to use and when
- Doffing instructions
- PPE disinfection instructions
- Social distancing guidelines.

### [Personal Protective Equipment module](#)

#### Self-screening

Before attending an in-person Clinical Skills session, Tutors should do a self-assessment for COVID-19 using the [BC Government – Thrive COVID-19 Self-Assessment Test Tool](#).

#### PPE in Clinical Skills in-person sessions as of July 31, 2020

PPE guidelines listed below are based on current provincial guidance from the BCCDC and the Ministry of Health, and they are subject to change as the prevalence of COVID-19 changes and/or new information becomes available. *Always defer to the current provincial and Health Authority guidelines.*

#### Interactions at least 2 meters apart

Currently, if you are at least 2 meters away from the other individual(s) with whom you are interacting, **no PPE is required.**

#### Interactions closer than 2 meters

Currently, for clinical skills lab sessions, interactions within 2 meters are often required. For these sessions, the following PPE should be used:



Gloves



Surgical/  
procedure mask



Eye protection

### Non-Clinical Interactions

Currently, for non-clinical interactions closer than 2 meters, a mask and eye protection are required. However, due to ongoing concerns about diminishing PPE supplies, use of fresh PPE for the express purpose of close (< 2 meters) non-clinical interaction is discouraged.

**Avoid non-clinical situations where physical distancing of 2 meters is not possible.**

### Building restrictions

Each geographic teaching site (Island Medical Program, Northern Medical Program, Southern Medical Program, Vancouver-Fraser Medical Program) will have their own building restrictions and processes dependent on individual contexts. Please contact your site's Clinical Skills administrator below for up-to-date information about building restrictions that may apply to you.

### Clinical Skills contacts

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## Teaching in a time of COVID-19 – Clinical Skills in-person sessions

### Updates to the role of the Clinical Skills tutor

For in-person clinical skills sessions, the tutor role has not changed significantly from previous years. However, due to increase anxieties from students during these stressful times, Clinical Skills tutors are encouraged to be sympathetic and supportive of students. Additionally, students have expressed that they feel stressed or unprepared for exams (OSCEs). Clinical Skills tutors can support students' preparation for OSCEs by encouraging students to verbalize their findings during exams.

For example, if a student is doing a lung assessment, remind students to verbalize what they are doing – **“I am auscultating the left upper lobe”** and what they are finding during their exam – **“I don't hear any wheezing.”**

If a student forgets to verbalize their findings, Clinical Skills tutors can ask probing questions as a gentle reminder such as:

**What are you doing?**

**What do you hear?**

**What is your placement?**

