

Site Applicability

This guideline applies across all areas of BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre (CW).

Practice Level

This guideline applies to all staff, students, medical care providers, and University of British Columbia (UBC) Faculty of Medicine academic faculty, participating in or facilitating simulation in the CW Simulation Centre (SHY E6 space) and for in situ simulation across all clinical areas at BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre (CW)

Guideline Statements

- Adhere and align with all BC Ministry of Health (MOD) directives, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and WorkSafeBC guidelines for restoration of services.
- Adhere to and align with Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), CW Clinical and Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC), and Workplace Health & Safety clinical support documents.
- Align with ethical decision-making as per the [COVID-19 Provincial Ethical Decision-Making Framework](#).
- Ensure responsible stewardship of healthcare resources at all times.
- Ensure staff safety and reduce the risk of person-to-person transmission with particular emphasis on [IPAC Principles of Routine Practices](#), including [hand hygiene](#), [respiratory etiquette](#) and [Physical Distancing While at Work](#). These continue to be the most effective measures to prevent transmission of infection.
- Employ virtual learning alternatives and limit face-to-face education whenever possible as a measure to minimize the risk of transmission in alignment with the hierarchy of controls.
- Practice flexibility for Service Changes as per Pandemic response triggers.

Guideline:

Prior to Education

Scheduling of Simulation Activities, Space & Equipment

- Every event that takes place in the Simulation Centre **must be scheduled** (no impromptu or unscheduled events).
- New simulation requests to be submitted using the intake process, which includes emailing cwsimulation@cw.bc.ca and completion of the intake form **at least 2 weeks ahead** of the event to allow for planning (i.e. use of the E6 space, simulation equipment, and simulation team resources).
- For recurring events, scenario and/or specific equipment or technology requests are submitted **at least 3 business days ahead**.
- Simulation events will be scheduled to allow for adequate time between user groups for cleaning of the space and equipment.
- External participants (non-employees) will be permitted to participate in simulation sessions. This will be reassessed on an ongoing basis.
- All external participants (non-employees) will be required to complete [CW COVID-19 Education Curriculum](#) (see [Learning Hub](#), course code 23493) prior to attending any onsite simulation activities.

- The maximum number of participant groups in the Simulation Centre E6 space at one time is 2 (two) separate groups. Only 1 group per main area of the simulation centre is permitted.
- The number of participants in a physical space during a simulation session is determined by the maximum room occupancy limits. Occupancy limits take into account the unencumbered floor space (square metres) in a room with people at 2 metre distance from one another.
- Refer to the following chart for the maximum number of participants allowed in the Simulation Centre based on room size:

Room	Description	Guideline for Number of People Based on Physical Distancing (excluding facilitator)
Phase 1		
E612	Storage	2
E614	Clinical Skills Room	4
E615	Clinical Skills Room	4
E616	Clinical Skills Room	4
E617	Simulation Room	3
E618	Clinical Skills Room	4
E619	Simulation Room	4
E620	Clinical Skills Room	4
E621	Simulation Room	4
E623	Control Room	4
E625	Simulation Room	4
E626	Education Room	12
E627	Clinical Skills Room	4
Phase 2		
E604	Clinical Skills Room	4
E604A	Clinical Skills Room	4
E605	Education Room	8
E606	Clinical Skills Room	4
E607	Clinical Skills Room	4
E608	Clinical Skills Room	4
E609	Clinical Skills Room	4
E610	Clinical Skills Room	4
E611	Clinical Skills Room	4

- Limited movement of groups unnecessarily is strongly encouraged.
- Given the need to reduce the number of simultaneous user groups using simulation in E6, prioritization of groups is based on [Appendix A: CW COVID-19 Education Delivery Framework](#).

Space

- Reconfigure learning spaces to meet physical distancing requirements of 2 metres of separation between participants.
- Keep only essential furniture (i.e. chairs, tables, etc.) and other supplies in rooms to reduce potential for contaminated surfaces.
- When air ventilation is limited, fans may be used.
- Facilitators are encouraged to assess room location and equipment requirements prior to all simulation activities to ensure space requirements are adequate.

Screening

- All facilitators and participants, including external participants (non-employees), are encouraged to use the [PHSA staff screening tool](#) prior to arriving to in-person education.
- All participants, including external participants (non-employees), and facilitators will follow [PHSA COVID-19: Attending the Worksite Procedures](#) and [PHSA COVID-19: Becoming Sick Procedures](#) to ensure staff safety.
- For further information, refer to [PHSA COVID-19 Resources for Staff](#) on the PHSA website.

Communication

- CW COVID-19 Simulation Guidelines for Restoration of Services will be communicated to all facilitators and participants for review prior to the simulation activity.
- Hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing signage is posted and clearly visible in simulation spaces.
- Facilitators are encouraged to ensure communication of [Workplace Wellness: Coping during COVID-19](#) resources are made available to participants.

During Education

Hand Hygiene

- All participants and facilitators will practice diligent hand hygiene routinely and as needed throughout the simulation activity. This included upon entering and exiting the Simulation Centre and at the beginning and end of a simulation.
- All participants and facilitators will clean all surfaces of hands and wrists with soap and water or alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) and will avoid touching one's face. Additional moments of hand hygiene should be added during simulation activities if contamination is suspected at any time.
- Facilitators will ensure adequate source of supplies (e.g. hand sanitizer, soap for hand washing stations, etc.)

Respiratory Etiquette

- All participants and facilitators will practice respiratory etiquette: cover your cough or sneeze properly into your upper sleeve/elbow – not into your hands. Place used tissue into garbage and perform hand hygiene.

Physical Distancing

- Facilitators will determine what components of the simulation activity can be done through virtual learning to reduce face-to-face contact. For skills that are not effectively learned or practiced virtually (e.g. psychomotor skills), simulation sessions may be held face-to-face.
- Simulations should be held with the minimal required participants and facilitators. No outside observers or visitors will be admitted to the simulation.
- A 2 metre distance will be maintained whenever possible throughout the prebrief, simulation scenario, debrief, and clinical learning session as per the [CW Physical \(Social\) Distancing Guidelines at Work Guideline](#).
- Video recording or streaming technologies will be used when possible to minimize gathering of groups. This requires advance notice when booking the simulation session (at least 2 weeks in advance for a new request).
- Participants and facilitators will not congregate before or after simulation activities or during break or meal times.

PPE

- When a 2 metre distance cannot be maintained, surgical masks are to be worn. Use of PPE is extended as per the [COVID-19: PPE Use - Application of PPE Emergency Prioritization Policy](#).
- N95 masks will not be used in alignment with the [COVID-19: PPE Use - Application of PPE Emergency Prioritization Policy](#).
- Gloves will be worn during the simulation session to minimize the contamination of the mannequins and task trainers.
- Avoid touching or adjusting PPE. Perform Hand hygiene if adjusting or touching PPE.

Environmental & Equipment Cleaning:

- Routine cleaning of all high touch surfaces (e.g. computers, headsets, phones, door handles, light switches) will be done between participant groups.
- Mannequins are disinfected between user groups using 70% isopropyl alcohol as per manufacturer guidelines.
- Mannequins are cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day cleaned using soap and water solution and then 70% isopropyl alcohol.
- If linens are used on beds/stretchers they are to be removed and new linens are to be applied between user groups. Bed/stretcher mattress to be cleaned with hospital-grade disinfectant.
- If a water cooler is in the location of the education activity, ensure proper cleaning has been done before allowing usage per the [CW Cleaning & Accessing Water Coolers Procedure](#).
- Food is not to be shared in the simulation centre. Drinks are permitted.

Supporting Documents

- [Principles of Routine Practices](#)
- [Physical \(Social\) Distancing Guidelines at Work](#)
- [COVID-19: PPE Use - Application of PPE Emergency Prioritization Policy](#)
- [Cleaning & Accessing Water Coolers](#)
- [Management of C&W COVID Positive Staff and Contact Tracing: Algorithm](#)
- [COVID-19: Management of Contact Tracing When a Staff Tests Positive: Guideline](#)
- CW COVID-19 EDUCATION GUIDELINES – CLINICAL EDUCATION, Appendix A: CW COVID-19 Education Delivery Framework

Additional Resources

- [BCCDC Do Not Enter If You Are Sick POSTER](#)
- [BCCDC How to Wash Your Hands POSTER](#)
- [BCCDC Physical Distancing POSTER](#)
- [BCCDC How to Wear a Face Mask POSTER](#)

Definitions

Staff means all employees (including management and leadership), medical staff members (including physicians, midwives and dentists), nurse practitioners), residents, fellows and trainees, health care professionals, and students.

References

- Belk, W., Shablak, D. (Host). (2020, April 10). Cleaning and Disinfecting with special guest Nick Brauer [Audio podcast episode]. In SimGeeks. <https://simgeekspodcast.podbean.com/>
- Government of Canada. Preventing COVID-19 in the workplace: Employers, employees and essential service workers. Retrieved May 13, 2020 from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/preventing-covid-19-workplace-employers-employees-essential-service-workers.html>
- WorkSafeBC. Preventing exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace: A guide for employers. (2020). Retrieved May 13, 2020 from <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/about-us/guides/preventing-exposure-to-covid-19-in-the-workplace?lang=en>
- WorkSafeBC. Health professions: Protocols for returning to operation. (2020). Retrieved June 4, 2020 from: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/health-professionals>

Developed By

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