

USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck

School of Social Work

COVID Field Practicum Policy

This policy applies to all students enrolled in a field education 2020-2021 Academic Year. Your signature is required at the end of this document to confirm that you have read and reviewed this policy and completed the required trainings.

Students will be completing their field internships in one or more the of following MSW Field Options:

1. Student on site at agency/clinic providing social work services in person (which may include home visits)
2. Student on site at agency/clinic providing social work services via agency approved video conferencing platform
3. Student at home providing social work services via the agency approved video conferencing program, by telephone and other digital technologies in a confidential setting

Student Requirements Before Entering Field:

Complete the “Health, Hygiene and Safety for Students” course accessed through <http://trojanlearn.usc.edu/>, which provides basic health, hygiene and safety information for USC students permitted to return to field during the “Safer at Home” orders (per your local public health department). Upon completion, download the **Trojan Check web-based app**. Answer the screening questions on the app each day before going to your field site.

Check your USC email regularly and visit <https://coronavirus.usc.edu/> to receive up-to-date information about COVID-19 and USC requirements and recommendations.

In addition, please review the information provided via the following links:

Standards for technology in social work practice

<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=lcTcdsHUcng%3d&portalid=0>

Successfully implementing teletherapy

<https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Social-Work-Talks-Podcast/EP52-Tips-for-Successfully-Implementing-Teletherapy>

Social workers’ disclosure responsibilities during the pandemic

<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=6KIP18ArqZ8%3d&portalid=0>

Social worker self-care during the pandemic

<https://www.socialworkers.org/Practice/Infectious-Diseases/Coronavirus/Self-Care-During-the-Coronavirus-Pandemic>

USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck

School of Social Work

Clinical guidelines for students providing in-person field activities include:

1. COVID-19 testing is not required to attend an internship site. If the site requires testing, the student will comply.
2. MSW students will not attend internship if they have symptoms associated with COVID-19. Please see the CDC Guidelines for list of symptoms:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
3. If the MSW student is exposed to COVID-19 in an internship setting or in a non-internship setting, or has symptoms and/or confirmed diagnosis, the student needs to follow the USC student health guidelines for quarantine measures. If the internship site guidelines regarding quarantine are stricter than the USC student health guidelines, the student must follow the internship site's guidelines.
4. MSW students will not go to internship if an exposure results in a quarantine mandated by their local health department or their employer based occupational health clinic.
5. If the internship agency is screening for COVID-19 symptoms and/or fever, the MSW student will comply with these measures.
6. Physical proximity to patients/clients and other personnel in the internship settings:
 - a. CDC guidelines about frequent hand hygiene apply in all interactions:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hand-hygiene.html>
 - b. All MSW students are required to wear masks as specified by the USC Health Sciences guidelines. USC recommends that students wear masks even if this is not required by the internship site. If students have difficulty accessing an appropriate mask they should contact their field faculty liaison.

I confirm that I have read and reviewed this policy and completed the required trainings:

Student Signature

Date

Print Name