

External Placements During Public Health Crises

UW–Milwaukee is committed to preparing students for success beyond the classroom through educational opportunities provided by clinical placements, field placements, and other external internship sites. To the extent reasonable and in accordance with any licensure requirements, UWM program directors should endeavor to find placements for students that meet both the student's and placement site's needs.

The public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic poses additional challenges for staff and students seeking placements. Many placement sites already require vaccination and/or testing as a condition of placement. It is likely that more placement sites will join those already requiring COVID-19 vaccination/testing.

Given the likelihood that COVID-19 will be a persistent threat to public health, it is advised that UWM program directors prepare students early on for the likelihood that their placement site will require vaccination or frequent testing. UWM Programs may also want to inform students that programs are not obligated to find a placement with a site that does not require COVID-19 vaccination/testing or to switch students to other placements. As such, students should be made aware that their inability or unwillingness to comply with a placement site's requirements could impact their ability to successfully complete their UWM program or to do so in a timely manner.

Some students may wish to seek a medical or religious exemption from vaccination and/or testing requirements at a placement site. It is the responsibility of the student to seek such exemption directly from the placement site, and to ultimately comply with the placement site's requirements if an exemption is not granted. If an exemption is granted with additional or alternative restrictions, students must comply with these restrictions. Receiving medical or religious exemption from a placement site does not exempt a student from any UWM-related vaccination/testing requirements and vice versa.

If a reasonable solution and/or alternative placement site can be found for a student who is unwilling to comply with vaccination/testing requirements at a placement site, or who has been denied a medical or religious exemption from such requirements by a placement site, and the solution meets program licensure requirements, UWM program directors are encouraged to pursue such option for the student. UWM program directors are likely in the best position to determine whether a reasonable solution or alternative placement site may exist.