COVID-19 Information and Acknowledgement

I. SAFETY AND COVID-19 IN FIELD

Field is a required academic class set in a non-traditional classroom environment. Safe, high-quality education in partnership with our community is our goal for field. For AY21-22, it is particularly important that students communicate safety and/or well-being concerns in field with their Faculty Liaison and/or Field Instructor. Students are expected to communicate concerns and requests in a professional and collaborative manner.

Internship options with different safety protocols and/or remote service delivery options may be limited. If so, the SHSSW is committed to timely transfers to new settings that minimize additional or delayed hour accrual. The availability of onsite and remote internship opportunities is impacted by the service delivery models of the agencies and programs providing educational opportunities.

Students who choose to participate in onsite field activities are required to follow all safety and other agency policies and procedures.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, students are strongly encouraged to:

- Get vaccinated if their health allows and booster shots as recommended by the CDC.
- Wear a mask that covers both their nose and mouth at all times while inside buildings. Students should remove masks only if they are able to be outside and at least six feet away from other people at their internships or in a secured office alone.
- Practice social distancing to the degree possible in field settings. Six feet is recommended for areas without masks. With masks, the distance of three or more feet is recommended when possible. Limiting the number of people within shared spaces is an important aspect of social distancing.

Students are expected to seek medical care and/or self-isolate in order to prevent contagion if they know they have been exposed to COVID-19 and/or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 exposure. Students are expected to communicate as soon as possible with their Field Instructor and Faculty Liaison when they recognize a need to not attend field for potential COVID-19 related reasons including isolation, quarantine, or medical treatment.

Students are expected to follow the UT guidelines for quarantining found at COVID-19 Exposure Action Chart (utexas.edu).

Interns at shared sites are expected to support each other’s accountability. Students must hold each other accountable to the same standards and failure to do so may result in sanctions for all interns involved in the infraction. Hopefully, the most effective intervention will be for peers to remind and support each other in upholding safety precautions.

All SHSSW interns are expected to take responsibility for their own safety and well-being and the Office of Field Education will support a student who chooses to leave a field site for safety concerns. The student remains responsible for seeking to address the safety concerns with their Faculty Liaison, Field Instructor, and/or communicating in advance or as soon as possible the need to disrupt service delivery

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and alter internship activities. Similarly, internship sites are responsible for current and accountable safety policies and procedures.

Student needs and vulnerabilities related to COVID-19 may change over the course of an internship and students are expected to enlist the support and consultation of their Faculty Liaison and Field Instructors in adapting accordingly.

Students are encouraged to participate in documented symptom screening using the Protect Texas Together application available online at the App Store. Students are responsible for information regarding safety protocols with and without symptoms available at https://protect.utexas.edu/.

II. BEHAVIOR CONCERNS and COVID-19 ADVICE LINE (BCCAL)

If students have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line. The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line has been expanded to support The University of Texas at Austin community during the COVID-19 pandemic. By calling 512-232-5050 - Option 2 for COVID-19, students, faculty and staff can be assisted in English and Spanish with COVID-19 support including

- Resolving Protect Texas Together app malfunctions, errors or questions.
- Information and support to answer questions about contact tracing.
- Reporting positive COVID-19 test results for students. Students will not get in trouble for testing positive. Faculty and staff should report COVID-19 tests and/or symptoms to the Occupational Health Program.
- Support identifying options for safe self-isolation, including City of Austin Isolation Facility coordination as requested by students living in Austin.
- Personal case managers for students impacted by COVID-19, to coordinate support throughout their experience and for the rest of the semester.
- Financial support for the impact of COVID-19 through the Student Emergency Fund or by referral to the Staff Emergency Fund.
- Support for faculty implementing academic accommodations for students impacted by COVID19.
- Class absence notifications and academic accommodations for students impacted by COVID-19.

III. USEFUL LINKS

A. General Information
2. John Hopkins University and Medicine Resources: https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/

B. UT Reporting and Resources

1. UT Community information and updates: https://protect.utexas.edu/, the most centralized channel for COVID-19 updates for the UT community

2. Behavioral Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line: Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line (BCCAL) | Be Safe | The University of Texas at Austin (utexas.edu)

C. UT Quarantining expectations

1. COVID-19 Exposure Action Chart (utexas.edu)