LKSOM Medical Student Volunteering Policy—Updated 4/20/20

LKSOM recognizes the important roles medical student volunteers can play in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on AAMC recommendations, we strongly suggest that medical students not be involved in direct patient care activities. To protect their own health and the health of the broader community, students should observe social distancing guidelines that minimize their risk of contagion and favor distance-working activities. Volunteering projects should align with community needs.

*Exception:* If and only if a critical health care workforce need has been identified locally and students receive proper preparation, protection, and supervision they may volunteer to help with patient contact.

If students pursue voluntary or paid clinical work outside the medical school’s purview that could risk exposure to COVID-19, they will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days prior to returning to any in-person school-related activity.

*Exception:* Those who are exposed to patients while wearing all recommended personal protective equipment are not required to self-quarantine but must self-monitor for fever and other symptoms of infection for 14 days.

Students who are diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection must self-quarantine, report to Temple Student Health, and follow the current CDC guidelines before ending self-isolation:

--- At least 72 hours must have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
--- Respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) must have improved and
--- At least 7 days must have passed since symptoms first appeared.

If students pursue such independent voluntary or paid clinical work outside the school’s purview, responsibility for the students’ competency, proper protection, supervision, and all other aspects of worker and patient safety lies with the organization sponsoring the students’ clinical work.

**Policy Implementation/Coordination:** To help coordinate student-led efforts, the Office of Student Affairs has organized a “COVID-19 Student Service Board,” which consists of leaders of major LKSOM student service organizations. This board communicates for guidance on policy with Dr. Reifler, Dianne Butera, and Jerome Wright in the Office of Student Affairs, who work in consultation with Center for Urban Bioethics, TEAC advisors, and other faculty involved in volunteer activities.