

CLINICAL & INTEGRATED EDUCATION COVID-19 ACTIVITY



Implemented Safety Coach Program

The Clinical & Integrated Education department created & implemented a program to provide in-person support for integrating PPE donning/doffing best practices into frontline care on inpatient units. A comprehensive orientation was launched with excellent leadership from Unity Health Toronto's Collaborative Learning Specialist. The Safety Coach teams were comprised of a combination of redeployed clinicians and new staff. Clinical units identified as high risk (i.e. ED, general medicine units, COVID rehab, long-term care) were prioritized and our coaches provided support during morning, afternoon, and evening shifts.



Delivered Tri-site PPE Training & Refreshers

It became increasingly clear during the first wave of the pandemic that frontline staff were nervous, and at times uncertain, about their PPE practices. The Education portfolio responded by creating a program that enabled drop-in sessions where clinicians were welcome to practice basic PPE donning and doffing and receive live feedback and targeted education. A large volume of Education portfolio staff were redeployed to support these sessions across all three sites of Unity Health Toronto. The drop-in nature of the sessions allowed for ease of access and flexibility for clinicians.



Coordinated the Safe Return of Students to Clinical Spaces

Clinical pre-licensure student activity was put on pause in mid-March 2020. Over the spring, the Education portfolio, in partnership with TAHSNe and other TAHSN hospitals, created a framework to prioritize the reintroduction of clinical students for fall 2020. The implementation of this framework allowed us to systematically consider local needs such as space, PPE access, and availability of creative placement alternatives (i.e. virtual, split student groups) to ensure that we could ensure a safe and meaningful student experience for returning students.



Managed Student Activity Amidst Outbreaks

COVID-19 outbreaks within clinical units have become more frequent as the pandemic has progressed. This continues to be a challenge as it has substantial impact on the ability of students to move throughout the TAHSN hospital system for new rotations and placements. The Office of Academic Affairs & the Student Centre teams have partnered to create a robust process that ensures a strong education presence and lens in all organizational outbreak meetings. Attending outbreak meetings kicks off a centralized communication cascade that ensures that all students, academic partners, and TAHSNe are notified of the outbreak and appropriate next steps promptly.



Leveraged New Student Registration System (SRS) to Ensure Learner Safety

Through support from the Providence Healthcare Foundation, the SRS was launched during the tail-end of the 2019/2020 fiscal year. This system functions as our "source of truth" for all student activity and was absolutely critical in maintaining student safety during the pandemic. It enabled the Student Centre team to easily keep track of where our ~6000 students were within the organization. It also provided our team with the ability to directly communicate with all students using their preferred email address, provide one singular orientation, and centrally track key safety measures (ex. mask fit testing details, orientation completion, robust placement/rotation tracking).