

Jung Tao School of Classical Chinese Medicine

COVID-19 POLICY UPDATE

June 24, 2021

ATTENDANCE AND FORMAT PLANS 2021-2022

Jung Tao School will be back to fully in-person learning for clinical and lecture classes starting in August 2021 for the 2021-2022 academic year.

We will remain poised for the possibility of a quick return to online and Zoom learning if required, for example:

- in response to federal and state policy changes in North Carolina;
- in response to rising transmissions in our region;
- in response to rising transmissions on our campus.

Faculty have been asked to keep their Populi and Moodle course supplemental materials active. Faculty will be prepared to launch and utilize Zoom in hybrid teaching with in-person instruction to meet the needs of students who are sick and cannot come to campus, who are quarantined, or who cannot travel due to outbreaks. Online learning will continue to be integrated to enhance student engagement with material between in person classes.

In-person attendance remains expected by all students except in such cases.

MASKING AND DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS

In keeping with state policy for schools and health clinics, will continue with proper procedural/surgical or equivalent mask use and six-foot social distancing for all members of the Jung Tao community, regardless of vaccine status when removing masks to eat.

When in the building, all community members must wear masks and hold each other accountable for the requirement. As weather permits, please eat and take breaks outside; during inclement weather, please distance within the building when eating and during breaks.

Those practicing, attending CE events, or attending graduation under the tent will also be required to mask, distance, and may be asked to work in instructor-generated small groups ("pods") to minimize contagion risk.

OTHER SAFETY PROTOCOLS

All current hand-washing, surface-cleaning, student pre-screening, and patient screening protocols will remain in place.

CLINIC

All interns will continue to wear scrubs and N95 masks in clinic.

Face shields/goggles will be available to all interns in the clinic. They will be required when the supervisor or faculty member says they are needed due to:

- Patient allowed on campus because deemed low risk for Covid-19 (not exposed, vaccinated, etc.) but has allergies/sneezing;
- Patient cannot wear a mask due to health conditions;
- During facial, scalp or auricular acupuncture that requires being close / face-to-face for needling;
- Patient or lab partner in patient role requests that intern/lab partner wear a face shield for the patient/patient role person's safety. Otherwise, face shield and goggle use will be optional, and will be made available to all to use as they deem necessary for their own safety.

TRAVEL AND QUARANTINE

Travel and quarantine restrictions for those taking public transportation to come to campus differ depending on vaccine status. Jung Tao School will follow the CDC travel recommendations, namely:

- Persons fully vaccinated who fly or take other commercial transportation should mask and take other recommended safety measures while traveling, but will not have to quarantine before coming to campus or test for COVID-19 unless symptomatic or have a known exposure.
- Those who are not fully vaccinated will need to test negative for COVID-19 3-5 days post-travel and isolate for 7 days.
- Those who are not fully vaccinated and do not get tested will need to quarantine for 10 days post-travel prior to coming to campus.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

LEARNING IN CLINICAL / HANDS-ON SETTINGS

Each month, students in clinical / hands-on learning settings will be assigned to small groups ("pods") within which social distancing will not be required. These groups may change month to month according to instructor discretion. Faculty may increase the size of pods to two or three tables of pairs of students, or up to half the class. This will allow for more trading of partners for experience (as much or more as was feasible prior to the pandemic), but still cap that monthly partnering to half the cohort/class in any given month to reduce exposure if someone who is asymptomatic later tests positive.

It is essential that groups of students do lab practice only with those assigned, so that if anyone tests positive for COVID-19 afterwards, the entire class does not have to quarantine.

VACCINE REPORTING

JTS continues to monitor notices from the Governor and Health Secretary offices. At this point we strongly encourage, but do not require, all JTS community members to get the Covid-19 vaccine.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES GUIDING THESE POLICIES

Depending on one's immune response to the vaccine, 10-20% of vaccinated persons may still contract COVID-19, may be asymptomatic, and may still spread the virus. The Delta variant is now dominant in the USA and is 100% more contagious. While side effects and hospitalization

risks seem less for those vaccinated than for those not vaccinated, spread is still possible. Thus the risk to self and others continues in a setting like Jung Tao School.

While Governor Cooper has reduced many restrictions in North Carolina, there are measures that are still required for health clinics and schools and Jung Tao School will continue to adhere to those and take other guidance from public health professionals. This includes required mask use.

Transmission risk is higher when people take off their masks to eat, are talking during breaks, and in any other indoor setting when mask use is not consistent. We will remind all to wear masks and to distance, but we will not police that choice/activity when you are outside of the school building or not engaged with school events. It is imperative that each member of our community take individual responsibility for mitigating risk to others by wearing masks and maintaining distance in those settings.

Please remember the added risk we pose our vulnerable clinic population and rural community by having people travel from multiple states to train here as health care providers. Please adhere to safety measures in your own personal lives to reduce any health risk we as a school pose to our host community.

While some members of our community have been ill from the virus, overall we have mitigated risk and had no known campus train transmission of the virus, either from campus or from the clinic. The risks, especially with the Delta variant, remain high for those in our communities who are not vaccinated, for vulnerable patients, and for community members who have young children or others in their families who are immunocompromised or have other health risk factors such that they do not build robust immunity even with the vaccine. Please remain vigilant as we enter this new phase of our community response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.