Hello Master of Nursing students!

We are four weeks from the start of the semester and we truly hope that you are having a good summer, even in times that none of us ever imagined. We look forward to beginning the fall semester with you and want to share additional information to help you plan for fall semester.

**Preparation for Practicum Experiences**

First, we want to celebrate that the majority of our health care organizations are having students return in the fall. You have received or will be receiving soon information about your practicum rotations for Nurs 5035. Prior to the start date of your practicum rotation, you will complete a required 3 hour refresher on skills and procedures in the Bentson Center. Information about this refresher lab has been sent to you by Dr. Carol Flaten. You will also get specific information about your practicum course from your clinical instructors.

**Nursing Courses you are enrolled in**

The week before the semester begins, you will be getting communication from the faculty teaching the courses you are enrolled in. They will inform you about how the virtual class sessions will be set up. The Canvas course site will provide you with all the details you need to attend class remotely.

**Protecting yourselves and others**

As you prepare to return to campus and the clinical settings, we ask that you be mindful of actions you can take to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure to yourself and to others. You will be with your student peers, faculty, health care workers and patients during the semester. When you are in the clinical setting, you will be practicing strict infection control procedures (hand hygiene) and wearing personal protective equipment (surgical face mask, face shield, gloves). You will be asked to always wear a clean scrub uniform and wear the same shoes to the clinical setting. Particularly if you take public transportation to the clinical site, you might want to change out of your scrubs into other clothing prior to leaving the clinical site.

In partnership with our practicum sites, you will not knowingly be assigned to a patient diagnosed with COVID-19 or a Person Under Investigation (PUI).

Prior to the start of each clinical day or prior to entering the Bentson Center, you will be asked to complete information attesting to no COVID-19 symptoms or fever. If you have symptoms, have been exposed to someone who has had symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19, you will not be able to be in the clinical setting. Your faculty and program director will provide you with further guidance if that would be the case.

According to data from the Minnesota Department of Health, more health care workers are testing positive for COVID-19 through exposure in social settings or their households, rather than their work settings. Given that non-work exposures can lead to infection as often, or even more often, than exposures experienced in the healthcare setting, taking personal action to minimize your exposure is very important. As a reminder, the State of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota has a [mandatory mask policy](#) that everyone must follow. We also know
that using 6 foot physical distancing as a means to minimize exposure is strongly recommended.

**Office of Student and Career Advancement Services**

The Office of Student and Career Advancement Services (OSCAS) will continue to provide services and support remotely. Shannon Dahl, Assistant Director/PrelicensurePrograms Coordinator and your staff/academic advisor will continue to provide meetings and appointments via Zoom or phone. All other services and programs will continue to be online and have remote access through the fall semester. To lessen the risk of COVID exposure to staff and students, all OSCAS staff will not be physically on campus through the fall semester unless specifically requested or needed, but will continue to be available to help support and assist however and wherever you are.

**Anti-racism and Social Justice**

The School of Nursing is deeply committed to actions that address anti-racism and social justice. We believe our actions must be informed by our own identities, experiences and understanding of institutional racism, inequities and social injustices. You are invited to begin or continue your personal journey by taking advantage of these resources.