

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WHO MAY BE AT A HIGHER RISK OF COVID19 COMPLICATIONS - INFORMATION TO STUDENTS AND PRACTICE PARTNERS

### STUDENTS

We have been working closely with our SEQOHS-accredited Occupational Health supplier at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals to develop a screening tool based on the QRisk3 risk assessment tool. The screening will allow us to identify the risk using an evidence-based approach.

Whilst QRisk3 is not designed to predict the outcome in patients infected with respiratory viruses, it is validated and evidence based as an index of cardiovascular risk in the general population, and will allow students with high cardiovascular risk to be identified so that any adjustments required can be recommended based on the risk stratification guidance. It is known from ongoing research individuals with known cardiovascular conditions are at higher risk of having complications associated with COVID19.

We have been advised, based on the evidence, that if you fall into one of the below categories then you should complete the screening:

- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups (all ages)
- Males aged 45 years and over
- Females aged 50 years and over
- You received a shielding letter
- Pregnant
- Have a long term health condition

This process has been developed based on the latest information and in consideration of approaches taken nationally. Advice is developing as knowledge about the virus improves and we aim to adapt to these changes as further information is published.

Please refer to the [placements website](#) for the latest Public Health England and Sheffield Hallam University COVID19 advice and guidance in relation to practice placement.

### How to get an assessment:

1. Screening can be requested from the Professional Issues Team by emailing [hwb-professional-issues@shu.ac.uk](mailto:hwb-professional-issues@shu.ac.uk). You will need to make an email request from your student account confirming your student name, student number and course.
2. You will be emailed a screening questionnaire from 'Cohort' which you will complete and submit directly to our Occupational Health suppliers.
3. Your completed questionnaire will be reviewed by an Occupational Health clinician who will assess whether any further follow up is required.
4. Depending on the level of risk identified during the screening process, an Occupational Health clinician will write to the University advising on further follow up recommended to manage the risk.

**PRACTICE PARTNERS**

**Re: Additional support available to students who may be at a higher risk of COVID19 complications**

We have been working closely with our SEQOHS-accredited Occupational Health supplier at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals to develop a structured screening process for students with an aim of providing additional support to students who may be at a higher risk of COVID19 complications.

It is important that we have a reliable and well validated screening tool available to our students which they can complete confidentially, without student's having to share their medical history directly with the University or with Practice Partners. Students will engage with the process on a basis and all data associated with the process including sensitive personal data will comply with legal requirements for data collection, processing, storage and retention. The process outlined in the flow diagram should provide assurances on how this can be managed.

In developing this process our suppliers and the University have considered guidance from organisations such as Health Education England, Council of Deans for Health and NHS England. We have also explored the approaches taken by other Higher Education Institutes.

The screening developed by Occupational Health specialist clinicians will be based on the QRISK3 assessment tool. Whilst QRisk3 is not designed to predict the outcome in patients infected with respiratory viruses, it is validated and evidence based as an index of cardiovascular risk in the general population, and will allow students with high cardiovascular risk to be identified so that any adjustments required can be recommended based on the risk stratification guidance. It is known from ongoing research individuals with known cardiovascular conditions are at higher risk of having complications associated with COVID19.

The student groups identified that may have a higher risk of COVID19 complications and will be invited to complete the screening are:

- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups (all ages)
- Males aged 45 years and over
- Females aged 50 years and over
- You received a shielding letter
- Pregnant
- Have a long term health condition

Depending on the level of risk identified during the screening process, the student and University will receive advice from the OH service on any adjustments recommended to reduce a student's potential exposure to COVID-19 whilst on placement. This will be based on the information contained in the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals risk stratification document.

In accordance with Health Education England guidelines, the overall responsibility for conducting the risk screening of these students sits with the University. The university is also responsible for ensuring the allocation of students who are deemed suitable to an appropriate placement (Health Education England; Council of Deans).

As such, the outcomes will be considered when placing a student, however, we do recognise that this needs to be a two stage process therefore with the student's consent, the outcome or any placement learning statement can be shared with practice partners to support the exploration of adjustments in practice.

**Students and practice partners should refer to the [placements website](#) for the latest Public Health England and Sheffield Hallam University COVID19 advice and guidance in relation to practice placement.**



\*All information relating to the processing of sensitive personal data including individual student assessment and management of risk should be managed confidentially and in accordance with Data Protection Regulations.

There are three levels of clearance for the risk assessments, which are standard, increased, and high. Please see definitions below:

- **Standard risk:** “May be placed as normal with no restrictions required, subject to appropriate use of PPE and other standard precautions.”
- **Increased risk:** “May work in client, service-user or patient-facing role but should not be deployed in areas where there is a higher risk of encountering clients, service-users or patients who have tested positive for covid-19 areas as identified by the placement provider.”
- **High risk:** “Can be deployed in settings on hospital sites in roles that **do not** include face-to-face contact with clients, service-users or patients, or be offered remote work in discussion with the placement provider.”