Interruption of Practicum - Field Education Strategies
Coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) is a flu-like illness caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. To date, there is no known case of COVID-19 at Boston University. The best current medical knowledge indicates that around 80–85% of those affected experience only mild illness, with cough and fever. Around 14% (generally older individuals or those with underlying medical issues) can suffer from more severe symptoms. Fewer still, about 5%, can become critically ill.

While the chance of becoming gravely ill remains relatively low, effects of this outbreak have already touched the lives of many in our Boston University community, either personally or through those they love. And the threat of this illness can generate very real anxiety with its own set of symptoms. Keep up to date with the BUSSW website.
What’s the difference between coronavirus and COVID-19?

According to the World Health Organization, COVID-19, an abbreviation derived from “coronavirus disease 2019,” is the name of the illness caused by the novel coronavirus (a family of viruses that can cause lung illnesses). The World Health Organization (WHO) has more information on how the disease was named.

Boston University uses the names novel coronavirus and COVID-19 interchangeably in our communications.
What are the symptoms of COVID-19 and who is at risk?

The symptoms of coronavirus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Currently, individuals who are most at risk of developing COVID-19 are those who have traveled to areas of sustained community transmission or have been in close contact with a person confirmed to have the disease. Relevant affected areas are subject to change and, as of February 29, 2020, include: mainland China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, and Iran. For more information, please see a COVID-19 Primer for the Boston University Community composed by Drs. Nahid Bhadelia and Ronald Corley from our Medical Campus.
What can I do to stay healthy?

- Keep your immunity strong by getting a flu shot if you haven’t yet — it is not too late!
- Wash your hands often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided expert guidance for [when and how to wash your hands](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-and-how.html).
- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, drink at least six to eight glasses of water daily, and ensure you’re getting enough sleep. For adults, seven or more hours of sleep a night is recommended to promote optimal health.
- Frequently clean surfaces that you touch regularly to decrease germs.
- Cover coughs and sneezes. Cough into your sleeve or a tissue, not your hands.
- Avoid contact with anyone who is sick. If you aren’t feeling well yourself, please contact on-campus health centers.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
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- What if a student doesn’t want to go to their internship due to concerns about COVID-19?

- What if a student is advised by their agency and/or government to not attend their field placement, or if safety concerns warrant a temporary disruption in field placement due to concerns about COVID-19?
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- **Steps to take:**
  - Review the student’s individual circumstances
    - Discuss with the student the rationale for an alternative work plan at this time
  - Reach out to the agency where the student is placed and address the request with the field instructor/task supervisor
  - Assess the length of time the student is requesting
  - Consult on developing the work plan
Assessment of the student’s/agency’s request:

- How long will the student need an alternative work plan?
- How many hours does the student need to complete their placement?
- What is the current assessment of the student’s progress?
- What is the agency’s plan?
- Can the student continue to engage with clients and agency services remotely?
- What is the weekly supervision plan?
- How will the student terminate relationships with clients/workgroups, if needed?
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- **Developing the work plan**
  - Student will draft the work plan collaboratively with their agency supervisor/field instructor
  - Advisor will discuss the work plan with agency supervisor/field instructor and student
  - Student will submit the finalized work plan to the advisor and BUSSW Field Coordinator or Director for approval
  - Student will upload the approved work plan to the SONIA database
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- **Individualized work plans, must:**
  - Prioritize tasks where the student needs to develop competence
  - Each task should include:
    - a written component/product so that competence and work completion is demonstrated
    - approximate time-frame
    - number of hours expected for completion
  - Student should utilize the time log to document all activities.
    - Time log should be shared with the field instructor and advisor on a weekly basis.
Review of possible assignments for the 9 CSWE Competencies

- Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
- Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
- Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
- Competency 4: Engage In Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
- Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice
- Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
- Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Social workers should provide appropriate professional services in public emergencies to the greatest extent possible.
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- Examples
  - VA Puget Sound - WA
  - Cancer Cares – NY
  - Others?

- Questions???
References

- https://www.bu.edu/covid-19-information/