

## Simulation Learning and Physical Distancing

### Guiding Principles:

- Staff safety is the first priority
- Interprofessional Practice and Learning supports are essential to maintaining the provision of quality and safe practices within NSHA
- In person sessions are limited due to physical distancing compliance. Virtual offerings will be the optimal methodology
- Leveraging use of technology is key to disseminating up-to-date practices and information

NSHA staff and physicians who are facilitating/participating in simulation activities within our facilities must wear a procedural mask per NSHA Healthcare Worker Masking Guidelines during a COVID-19 pandemic and observe the following practices to minimize the risk of COVID-19 spread in the workplace:

**Consider using Virtual Simulation, Remote Access Stream via video or teleconferencing systems**, where possible, to allow for increased attendance and guide group facilitation of debriefing. Consider having observers take notes during the stream and then share back during the debriefing to enhance reflective learning.

**Limit attendance to a maximum of 10 people for in-person simulation training sessions aligned with Public Health guidance for [gathering limits](#) and Occupational Health Guidance for [Physical Distancing at Work](#)** (this includes facilitator(s) and operator(s)) to ensure physical distancing during pre-briefing, simulation, and debriefing. Consider the room size and if appropriate, further reduce the number of participants such that you can safely ensure 6 feet or 2 metres distancing. This may require multiple sessions as opposed to one large gathering.

**Prior to a simulation session**, all participants are to be screened for having ONE of the following: fever (signs of fever, i.e. chills, sweats), cough or worsening of a previous cough, sore throat, unexplained headache, nasal congestion/runny nose, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sneezing, hoarse voice, diarrhea, unusual fatigue, loss of sense of smell or taste. If any of these symptoms are present, the individual is NOT permitted to participate. They will be asked to remove themselves from the workplace and call Occupational Health at **1-833-750-0632**.

**Live attendance simulation events:** If team educational or in-situ simulation is required, please try to keep teams together and limit cross-contamination of staff from various teams or groups. Adhere to IPAC guidance when engaged in simulation learning activities, to limit any risk to other staff participants. Maintain recommended physical distancing of 2 meters (6 feet). Remember the longer the duration of contact, the higher the risk of transmission. Wash your hands pre, post and during simulations.

**QEII Simulation Program events:** It is everyone's responsibility to ensure a clean learning environment. Clean all surface areas, equipment, and patient simulators before and after every learner session held at the Simulation Centre, Sim Bay or Skills Centre. In-Situ simulation using QEII Simulation Program equipment must follow the [QEII Simulation - Infection Control Guidelines for Sharing of Equipment](#).

**NSHA simulation (including In-Situ) events:** To ensure a clean learning environment, clean all surface areas and manikins between participants/groups and ensure terminal clean of room/equipment following last session of the day. If equipment is borrowed/shared, the equipment is checked in/out using a checklist. Label supplies as *'for simulation only'* to ensure those used for simulation purposes In-Situ Unit or in a Patient Care Area are **not repurposed for patient care**.