

## STATEMENT OF RISK

### Notice to Students Registering for Clinical/Experiential Activities Regarding COVID-19

August 2020

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited or limited the congregation of groups of people.

Salisbury University (the “University”) provides clinical placement and experiential opportunities for students in its educator preparation and other academic programs. For many Seidel School of Education programs, clinical and experiential activities (i.e., field placements, internships, clinical experiences, and other hands-on learning activities) are an essential part of the curriculum and a mandatory prerequisite for completing a course of study, obtaining a degree, and acquiring teacher licensure.

Despite having put in place preventive measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the University cannot guarantee that a student will not become infected with COVID-19 when on the University campus or when participating in clinical/experiential activities at an off-campus location. It should be noted that attending clinical/experiential activities could increase a student’s risk of contracting COVID-19. The University does not maintain authority or control over, and cannot assume responsibility for, the safety practices and procedures of facilities where students participate in clinical/experiential activities.

Further, the University will begin controlled re-opening of clinical/experiential activities in accordance with campus guidelines and in consultation with the Seidel School of Education Dean and the Provost. Re-opening decisions may be made on a program by program basis and opportunities may be limited. Clinical and experiential placements will be authorized on a student-by-student basis, considering the extent of opportunities available and those students most in need of clinical or experiential engagement in order to complete a course of study without undue delay. Decisions will take into account the measures needed to limit risk to students as well as risks to faculty, staff, clients, and the public.

Before engaging in clinical/experiential activities, students should inform themselves fully of the risks. Students should consider the contagious nature of COVID-19 and the risk that they may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending clinical/experiential activities and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. The risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at clinical/experiential activities may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of the student and others, including, but not limited to, clinical staff, volunteers, and clients and their families. Even absent such negligence and if all parties involved in a clinical rotation exercise reasonable care to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19, a student may be exposed to COVID-19 and become infected.

A student who wishes to receive more information or who wishes to defer participation in clinical and/or experiential activities due to COVID-19 risks should promptly contact the instructor or Mr. Paul Gasior, Clinical Practice Coordinator, to discuss their options. Students are reminded that clinical/experiential activities are required for academic progression and are necessary to obtain a degree and teacher licensure.