

Briar Cliff University COVID-19 Social Work Field Placement Guidelines

In response to impacts COVID-19, Briar Cliff University's Social Work Department has implemented the following guidelines for all Field Education Placements during the 2020-2021 academic year. The public health guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were used to develop these guidelines.

Since information is constantly changing and evolving. We anticipate changes and recommend checking with these authorities and local public health guidance frequently for the most up to date guidance and recommendations.

The following guidelines apply to Briar Cliff University Social Work students in their practicums:

Prior to starting practicum hours:

- All students will complete the ePROTECT Respiratory Infections World Health Organization online training and submit certificate of completion (<https://openwho.org/courses/eprotect-acute-respiratory-infections>)
- All students will sign and submit an Acknowledgement of Risk form
- Field Placement Instructors will provide the Director of Field Education or Designated Field Liaison with a copy of the agency COVID-19 safety and response protocols for the placement agency.

Students should not:

- Attend practicum if they are feeling ill
- Attend practicum if they have been asked to self- quarantine by public health authorities or Briar Cliff University
- Participate in the care of known or suspected COVID-19 patients

Student practicum will be canceled:

- At any site that is treating a patient with COVID-19 where appropriate environmental controls cannot be implemented per [CDC guidelines](#)
 - At any site when crisis standards of care are used to care for COVID-19 patients
 - When sites are unable to provide students with appropriate personal protective equipment
 - In the event that a shelter in place order is issued in the community in which the student resides or the agency is placed
- Students will immediately communicate to their field instructor and the Briar Cliff University Director of Field Education with any safety concerns and stop participating in the experience until the issue is resolved.
 - Practicum sites and/or Briar Cliff University retain the right to cancel student participation at any time to protect the safety of students.

Academic Impacts

In the event a student is removed from their practicum placement, as much as possible, students will be accommodated with alternate remote options if necessary, so they can continue to meet requirements toward graduation and licensure. Briar Cliff University Social Work Department field education faculty will work to communicate any updates to students expeditiously.

We are committed to supporting our students, faculty, staff, and community members as we prepare for and respond to this constantly evolving situation.