



## **SOPs for Infection Prevention in the Course of Practical/Viva/OSCE/OSPE/Clinical Examinations to be Held During COVID-19 Pandemic**

The ongoing situation that has emerged owing to the COVID-19 pandemic has created special challenges in medical education. University of Health Sciences Lahore ensures that *all examinations of any of the constituent institutions of UHS shall be arranged as per the existing standard protocols of the Examination Department of UHS keeping strict compliance with the SOPs mentioned below.*

### **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOPs)**

1. In any case, gatherings of students, without social distancing, shall not be allowed. Maximum 25-30 students shall be examined within one examination centre at one time (morning/evening).
2. No student shall be allowed to enter the examination premises without wearing a proper mask and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) cover suit. Students have to arrange both items themselves. No relative or accompanying person shall be allowed to enter the examination premises (Section/ Department/ Ward).
3. For the staff and faculty members deputed for examination, wearing of face masks and other protective gears is mandatory.
4. Proper information shall be provided to students by the host institution regarding the area where they have to be seated and examined.
5. No food items shall be allowed on the premises. However students may take their drinking water bottles with them.
6. The staff/faculty deputed to organize and/or conduct the examination shall ensure social distancing as per government guidelines inside the examination area. There shall be a distance of at-least 2 meters in between the two candidates as well as between the examiners and the examinees.
7. All examination centers shall have adequate arrangements for body temperature screening and provide sanitizers at convenient places. The temperature sensor devices should be properly calibrated.
8. Any student found to have temperature greater than 99°F should be rechecked after 10 minutes.
9. No confirmed COVID-19 positive candidate shall be allowed to proceed with the examination to safeguard the other persons within the examination area.
10. All examination centres must depute a senior consultant/physician to clinically evaluate the candidates who are detected with the elevated temperature or any other symptoms highly suggestive of possible COVID-19 infection. These candidates shall be treated as "Suspected Cases". The deputed consultant must certify the medical condition of these candidates for submission to the Examination Department.
11. The Convener of the examination must ensure to get the Declaration signed by such highly suspected cases (Item: 9) regarding submission of COVID-19 RT-PCR test result from an authentic laboratory (recognized by Punjab Health Care Commission for SARS-CoV-2 testing) within 48 hours as a mandatory requirement.
12. It is only after the receipt of the (1) certificate from the evaluating consultant (Item: 9) and (2) declaration by the student (Item:10), the Examination Department of UHS may re-schedule the examination date and group for confirmed COVID-19 negative cases, if the new date falls within the duration of already declared date sheet of that particular exam.



13. No special chance shall be given to the candidates with positive COVID-19 RT-PCR result if their quarantine and/or COVID-19 RT-PCR test negativity occurs beyond the duration of the already declared date sheet of Practical/Viva/ OSPE/OSCE/Clinical examination for which he/she had to appear.
14. Failing to provide the result within the stipulated time (Item-11), the candidate shall NOT be entitled for re-scheduling of Practical/Viva/ OSPE/OSCE/Clinical examination.
15. The candidates and examination staff appointed in the examination premises shall ensure complete protection in the form of PPE, face shields and gloves while touching the surfaces or handling / examining the patients, specimens or other examination material.
16. Gloves must be removed immediately after examining each patient and new gloves should be worn for examining the next case. Strict Hand Washing SOPs and sanitizing must be ensured after removal of gloves each time.
17. Proper arrangement to safely dispose the used gloves by the staff/students should be made by the host institution.
18. The examination centers shall be sanitized before and after each examination to ensure disinfection.
19. Sanitizers shall be made available in each examination area and all individuals (students, examiners, and staff) shall be asked to properly sanitize their hands and belongings.
20. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces should be arranged as soon as one batch finishes its practical/viva/OSPE/OSCE exam.
21. The seating arrangements shall be made with an optimum distance between the two individuals.
22. Each examination area shall be designed logistically to maintain an optimum distance (minimum two arms' length) between the candidates.
23. Washrooms designated for each examination center should be properly washed and sanitized including water taps. There should be regular cleaning of washrooms during the examination.
24. Standings/posters/ charts regarding SOPs should be displayed at prominent areas for students' awareness.
25. If any institute has more than one unit for any medical specialty, the examination can be conducted by distributing the examinees equally in all units, the examiners can be appointed accordingly.
26. Specific timing may be allotted to each student to arrive for the exam to avoid gathering of students.
27. During OSCE/OSPE, make sure that students move promptly to the next station so that the station is vacated well before arrival of the next candidate.
28. For OSCE, long and short case, it is mandatory to recruit the confirmed COVID-19 negative patients. All patients to be recruited for examination must wear facemask.
29. For viva/practical examination, not more than five candidates shall be allowed in the lab/ward at the same time. All candidates shall be called in the examination room in a way to strictly maintain social distancing.
30. The candidates shall be strictly directed to immediately leave the examination premises as soon as their exam finishes.
31. Submission of the pictorial and/or video evidences by the Convener of the exam to the Examination department of UHS is mandatory after the end of each exam to ensure strict implementation of SOPs.
32. The administration of the colleges is requested to ensure proper boarding arrangements for their students during the examinations.
33. Rest of the UHS examination regulations and policies for the conduct of examination remains intact.