

5/21/2020 – Update to policy regarding students in the OR

Dear students,

This update applies to students who will be doing rotations in the operating room.

When the COVID pandemic hit, Upstate changed its policy such that there was a max of 6 individuals allowed in the room per OR case. We are very happy to report that Upstate policy is being updated so that the new policy will allow 6 individuals per room PLUS up to 2 students. This way if there is a student on the surgical team and a student on the anesthesia team, they can both participate.

In order to conserve N95 respirator mask use, students on surgical rotations are asked to limit to:

- 1. Maximum of 3 days per week in the OR2. Up to**
- 2. cases per day in the OR**

For students on surgical rotations, this will allow you to spend the other 2 or more days per week in clinic or seeing consults. From a surgical faculty perspective, I always encourage students on surgical AIs to spend time in clinic with attendings, as that is how you will best show your work ethic and make a good impression to get stronger letters of recommendation.

We want to be able to measure the use of N95s by students, since there are so many things changing that affect N95 "burn rate". Elective surgeries are ramping up each week (we are happy to say that the current plan is that they will get back to normal in June, so there will be plenty for you all to do), so the rate of N95 use is going up independent of students joining. If the overall N95 burn rate is higher than expected, we'd like to be able to show that it's not the students using up more than they were projected to. In this way we can best protect your ability to be able to come to the OR. There are going to be signup sheets for students at each Upstate OR location (5East, 3North, outpatient surgery center, community campus). For any student who will be in the OR for the day, you will be asked to put your name on the sheet. It will look something like the following:

Date	Student Name	MS Year	Service/Rotation	OR Room(s)

If anyone has questions about this, feel free to reach out to me. We are excited to have you returning next week, and I look forward to seeing you on your rotations.

Be well and stay safe,

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