



Stony Brook Medicine

School of Social Welfare

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Dear SSW Students,

We know you have concerns and questions about your field internship placements. We are working with the University to develop plans to address temporary disruption to your social work field placements due to local, state or national emergencies or events, including the COVID-19 disease. All planning must be done with your health and safety (and that of your clients) in mind.

As you know, New York State requires 900 hours for licensure at the MSW level and 420 hours at the BSW level, as does our accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education. To graduate and be licensed, those hours must be completed, and social work competencies mastered.

As such, we offer the following protocols:

1. If your field placement organization is closing, or students are asked not to attend, you should immediately inform our Field Education Department (sswfieldoffice@stonybrook.edu). In these cases, our Department staff will work with you individually to arrange alternative plans to meet your field requirements.
2. If you are a high risk individual as indicated by the CDC please inform the Field Education Department, including submitting a doctors note. (See a list of those high risk persons at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>). Again, our Field Education staff will work with you to arrange alternative arrangements to meet your field requirements.
3. Most organizations have put health and safety protocols into place, and you will be at low risk for exposure in many environments. Therefore, we expect students to attend their internships, continue your work with all clients other than those that have been designated as a Person Under Investigation (PUI), and complete your hours. Please discuss your health and safety plans with your field instructor, and reach out to the Field Education Department with questions.
 - a. Additionally, if you are ill, please call your Field Instructor to report sick and call your physician.

- b. In some cases you can plan with your field instructor to do paperwork, recording or even supervision from home. We encourage those kinds of adaptations.

4. All students should continue to take the normal precautions defined by the CDC to protect themselves from the flu and COVID-19. Here is some information from the CDC about keeping yourself healthy: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fprevention-treatment.html

Social workers are often engaged in community crises. Our roles and work become more critical at these times to provide services to those marginalized and disadvantaged communities who often have less access to services, and for whom social determinants of health negatively affect their functioning and coping in the face of catastrophe. We know you will want to join us in meeting that professional challenge.

More information for you is available at Stony Brook's FAQ page at <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/coronavirus/faq.php>

I have every confidence in our community's ability to pull together with kindness, care and concern for the common good.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Mondros, DSW

Dean and Assistant Vice President for Social Determinants of Health

