



Stony Brook **Medicine**

School of Social Welfare

Office of the Dean
Health Sciences Tower, L2, 093
Stony Brook, NY 11794-8221

March 11, 2020

Re: Field Education Continuity Plan

Dear Colleagues,

We know you have concerns and questions about your social work 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 our students and your clients health and safety in mind.

The School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook University has developed plans to address temporary disruption to students' social work field placements due to local, state, or national emergencies or events.

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 organization is closing, or you are asking students not to attend, you should immediately inform our Field Education Department (sswfieldoffice@stonybrook.edu). In these cases, our Department staff will work with the students to arrange alternative plans to meet field requirements.
2. If you have an intern who is a high risk individual as indicated by the CDC please instruct them to inform our Field Education Department. (See those high risk persons at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>). Please ask students who are ill not to come to the agency, but to instead contact their physician and follow their advice.
3. Most of our placement organizations have put health and safety protocols into place, and students will be at low risk for exposure in many environments. Therefore, we expect students to attend their internships, and continue their work with clients. Students will not be permitted to work with clients who have been designated as a Person Under Investigation (PUI). Please

discuss your health and safety plans with your students, and reach out to the Field Education Department with questions and concerns.

In some cases you and your students can plan for them to do paperwork, recording or even supervision from home. We encourage those kinds of adaptations.

4. All students have been informed that they should continue to take the normal precautions defined by the CDC to protect themselves from the flu and COVID-19.

As you know, 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 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>

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Warren Graham
Director of Field Education

Jacqueline Mondros
Dean and Assistant Vice President of Social Determinants of Health

