

Principles for student clinical placements: Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences [2020-21].

New students to the Faculty, who will be accessing clinical placements in semester 1, undergo occupational health screening as part of the admission process. This provides an opportunity for students to raise any health concerns.

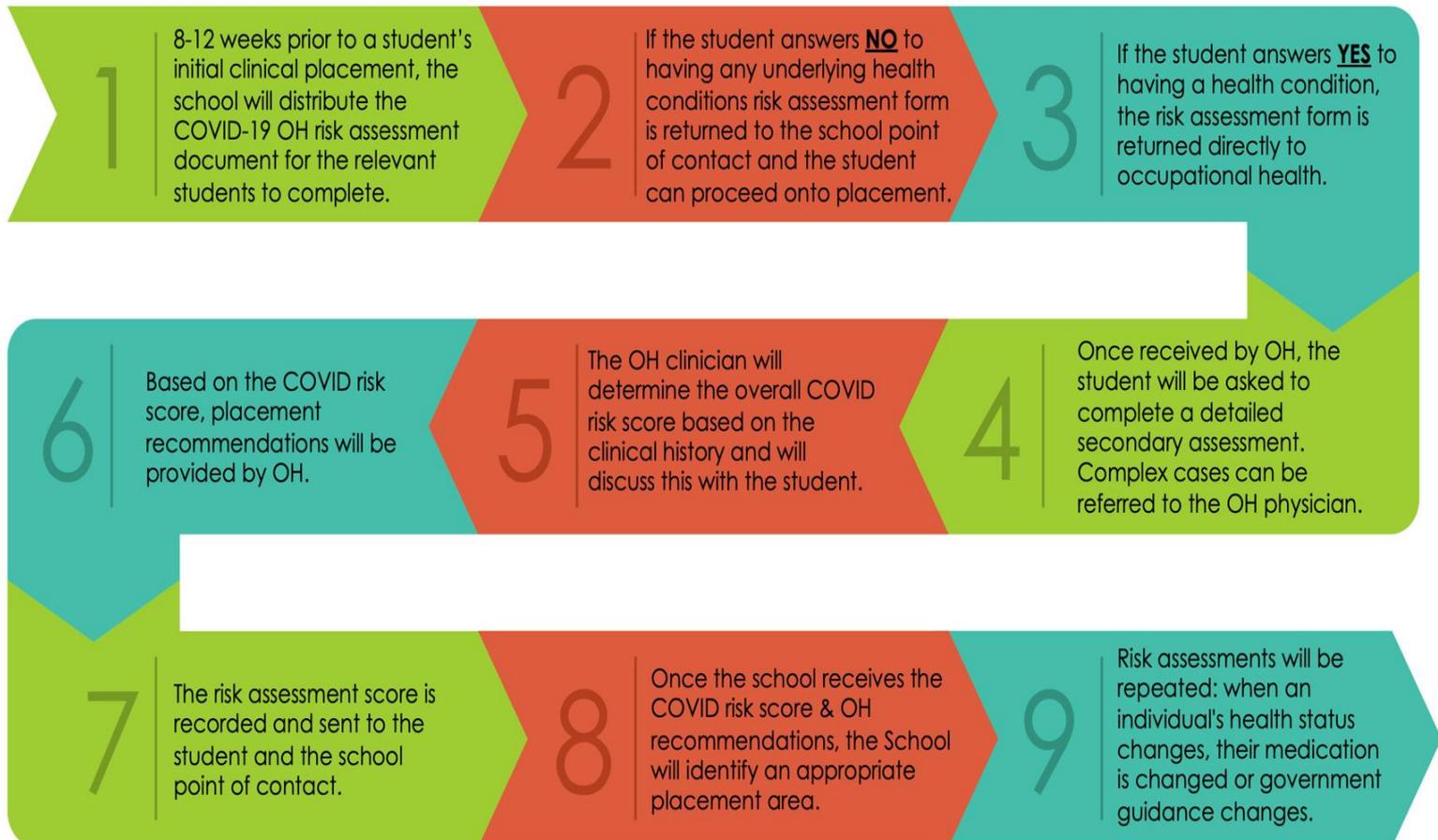
For concerns from students about attending taught session, students should be advised to contact [Student Services](#) who can support them with their personal circumstances and liaise with Schools to support their transition to study at Keele.

This guidance relates to student return to normal, supernumerary clinical placements for the new academic year 2020-21, whilst Covid-19 remains a risk factor.

Student risk assessment for those undertaking clinical placements:

All students will complete and return the Occupational Health (OH) risk assessment form, in a timely manner, prior to their placement commencing, as per flow chart.

This flow chart indicates the process to be adhered to when completing and returning the document:



Allocation of students to placements:

Schools will consider the outcomes of the OH risk assessment and liaise directly with the placement providers to discuss the suitability of placement for each student identified to be at risk. Please note that where adjustments are advised by occupational health, it is for the school placement team, in liaison with our placement partners, to decide whether those adjustments may be reasonably achieved.

Note that following the current government guidance there are very few circumstances where individuals cannot be supported in a workplace setting that is classed as COVID-secure, however, additional consideration must be given to the clinical environment as the risk of potential exposure to COVID is higher in comparison to other work places.

Even those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable can be supported back to work in a COVID secure setting if they cannot work from home, however this may mean that individuals at increased risk may require additional workplace adaptations to ensure their safety.

Please see the link for further information on those identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Students from a black, Asian or minority ethnic background, with no underlying health conditions, do not need to be referred OH. In the first instance, personal tutors will discuss specific concerns or anxieties with BME students to determine if additional supportive measures are required.

For further information, please see <http://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/risk-assessments-for-staff>.

- * COVID risk assessments should be reviewed in the following circumstances:
 - a change in the individuals health,
 - a change in medication or
 - a change in government guidance.

Preparing for and supporting students during Placement

Schools will ensure that all students have a formal induction from the placement provider at the start of their placement which includes Covid working practices.

Placement providers must ensure that appropriate PPE is available for students. Schools will ensure that students are supported whilst on placements.