



Policy Title
Inclement Weather

Identifier
USCSOMG – HR – 2.00

Prepared by: Office of the Dean	
Reviewed by: Executive Director of Finance and Operations	Review Date: 06/05/2024
Approved by: USCSOMG Policy Committee	Approval Date: 06/19/2024
	Effective Date: 07/01/2024

LCME Standards

5.7 – Security, Student Safety, and Disaster Preparedness

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville students, faculty and staff

Policy Statement

All decisions regarding closures or delayed opening for USC School of Medicine Greenville due to inclement weather are made in accordance with [USC policy HR 1.18](#). The Executive Director for Finance and Operations monitors the South Carolina Emergency Management Division [website](#) for closure information for Greenville County government offices. These decisions are made separately from the University of South Carolina’s main campus in Columbia and from the Greenville County School system.

Employees of the partner health system should refer to their policy and supervisor for inclement weather protocols.

Students, staff and faculty are urged to take all necessary precautions for travel during inclement weather, regardless of whether the event is formally declared to represent an Inclement Weather event. Faculty and staff may get approval from their supervisor to work remotely, if appropriate.

During their clinical rotations, Primary Care Accelerated Track (PCAT) and M3/M4 medical students’ responsibilities to their patients and to their clinical teams require, as consistently as possible, their presence in the inpatient and outpatient environments. During times of inclement weather, students’ clinical responsibilities must be balanced by concerns for safety. The final decision about travel to these inpatient and outpatient facilities should be made by students based upon their assessment of current travel conditions.

Reason for Policy

This policy is to provide USC School of Medicine Greenville students, faculty and staff clarity on institutional expectations. LCME expects that a medical school ensures that adequate security systems are in place at all locations and publishes policies and procedures to ensure student safety and to address emergency and disaster

preparedness.

Procedures

In the event of a school delay or closure, email is the primary method of communication. The Executive Director for Finance and Operations issues an email to all faculty and staff. The Office for Student Affairs will issue an email to all students.

In the clinical years, a student determines that safety concerns preclude their travel to the facility to which they have been assigned, the student is required to inform an appropriate person in authority at the facility and the clerkship director.

- **Outpatient Responsibilities:** In general, during time of inclement weather, students should be present to carry out their clinical responsibilities whenever the outpatient clinic/community medical practice to which they have been assigned by the clerkship director is open and operational. Students should make every effort to determine the operating schedules of these facilities during times of inclement weather and be present, when possible, during those hours when the outpatient facility is operational. Most Prisma Health medical offices communicate delays and closings via WYFF4 (<http://www.wyff4.com/weather/closings>) and Fox Carolina (<http://www.foxcarolina.com/closings>).
- **Inpatient Responsibilities:** In general, during times of inclement weather, students should carry out their clinical responsibilities in inpatient facilities to which they have been assigned by the clerkship director. Students should therefore make every effort to be present at these facilities, when possible, during times of inclement weather.

Testing Week: In the event inclement weather falls during testing week, students will receive a notification from the Office of Medical Education.

Sanctions

N/A

Additional Contacts

Office for Medical Education

Office for Academic Affairs

Office for Student Affairs

Related Information

USCSOMG – ACAF – 1.00 M1 and M2 Student Attendance

USCSOMG – ACAF – 1.01 M3 and M4 Student Attendance

USCSOMG – ACAF – 1.03 Integrated Practice of Medicine Attendance

History

Date of Change	Change
July 2024	Clarified inclement weather decision-making process for USC School of Medicine Greenville and clarified responsible parties for communications.
May 2019	Editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles; formal approval not required
Dec 2018	Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI

