

## **Policy on Medical Student Clinical Participation During Severe Weather Conditions**

### **I. POLICY**

During severe weather conditions and when the University is officially open for classes, students on clinical rotations with on-going patient care activities are expected to attend their clinical activities if possible.

Students who are unable to report to their hospital or clinical site must notify the clinical team as soon as they may safely do so.

Student safety is our most important consideration and students should exercise sound judgment in the decision to attend. There will be no penalty for students who are unable to make it to their rotation due to severe weather considerations.

If the University of Pittsburgh has officially cancelled classes or has closed, medical students on clinical rotations may still make a significant contribution to patient care. Students must communicate with their clinical preceptor (faculty or senior resident preceptor) about whether it is appropriate for the student to commute to the site.

For purposes of this policy, examples of severe weather include heavy snow or ice conditions.

### **II. PURPOSE**

Severe weather sometimes results in closing or cancellation of classes at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. The hospitals, of course, continue to provide care for patients. Students on clinical rotations with on-going patient care activities can make a significant contribution to patient care (and to their education).

### **III. SCOPE**

This policy applies to:

- Medical students

#### **IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)**

- Office of Medical Education

#### **V. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

University of Pittsburgh Policy 07-04-02, Extreme Weather Conditions

#### **VI. REFERENCES**

LCME Element 5.7: Security, Student Safety, and Disaster Preparedness. 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.

#### **VII. APPROVALS**

Curriculum Committee

Education Policy Council

Dean, School of Medicine, December 22, 2017