

COVID-19 Virtual Activity for BA Social Work Students

(from The Ohio State University, College of Social Work, Spring 2020)

The following is a list of learning opportunities and planning related to COVID-19 and the impact on the community agencies where our students are placed. To earn credit for this activity, you must respond to each question in writing and submit to your liaison by email.

Review resources about this pandemic:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Answer the following questions:

- What is COVID-19?
- How does it spread and what are the symptoms?
- How long does it take for the symptoms to appear?
- How is COVID-19 treated?
- Is there a vaccine?
- How can I best protect myself?
- Who falls into the risk populations and what are the current recommendations for these groups?
- What are the general strategies for risk mitigation?
- When and how should one engage a health professional?

Self-Assessment

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety related to COVID-19, you are not alone. Review the following links:

<https://wellness.osu.edu/story/covid-19-students> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

Considering your own risk factors or the risk factors of others you are in close proximity with, how might you change your behaviors to mitigate risk?

The Agency

- Briefly describe the program where you are currently placed including the programming or activities you are currently engaged in.
- Describe the client population.
- What are the implications of this pandemic on your agency and the clients you serve?
- What characteristics of the client population may increase their risk for acquiring the illness, or put them at higher risk for severe consequences?
- Given what you now know about COVID-19, to what extent are members of your client population in contact with family members and others who may also be a particular risk for severe consequences of the illness?
- What characteristics of the programming have the potential for increasing the risk of transmission?

- What safety protocols are current in place to protect the clients?
- What programming or other changes could be implemented to reduce risk?
- How have agency operations changed in lieu of the state response to COVID-19?
- How does this compare to other agency settings?

Consultation with supervisor

Schedule a phone call or video conference with your supervisor at the agency. If this person is unavailable due to the needs of the agency at this time, please reach out to your CSW field liaison to discuss an alternative setting for this conversation. Think about some questions you would like to ask your supervisor and write a reflective paragraph based on your conversation. Here are some sample questions:

- What is our professional obligation in this crisis?
- How do you manage stress response and ensuring that staff are practicing in a manner that they are not impaired?
- If an agency does not currently have a policy to manage this type of event, what would you suggest as a course plan to address this concern?
- What would be your recommendations to me as a student, on how to manage my own fears?

This activity addresses the [Council on Social Work Education competencies](#) (specifically 1,2,3,4,5,9). The [NASW Code of Ethics](#) has several components that may be helpful to review prior to starting this activity. We have included a few to highlight:

1.15 Interruption of Services

Social workers should make reasonable efforts to ensure continuity of services in the event that services are interrupted by factors such as unavailability, disruptions in electronic communication, relocation, illness, mental or physical ability, or death.

1.17 Termination of Services

(b) Social workers should take reasonable steps to avoid abandoning clients who are still in need of services. Social workers should withdraw services precipitously only under unusual circumstances, giving careful consideration to all factors in the situation and taking care to minimize possible adverse effects. Social workers should assist in making appropriate arrangements for continuation of services when necessary.

6.03 Public Emergencies

Social workers should provide appropriate professional services in public emergencies to the greatest extent possible.