



Policy Title:
Inclement Weather Policy

Background:

The Health Sciences Center has an obligation to provide clinical services on a regular basis despite occasional inconveniences caused by inclement weather. At the same time, the UNMSOM has a responsibility for the safety and well-being of its medical students and staff. Most clinical sites will not close during periods of inclement weather unless conditions are severe enough to endanger employees or patients. The University makes decisions about main campus delays and closures.

Policy:

Notification of delay or cancellation for snow

UNM employees and students will receive news about closures and cancellations via the news media, by calling 277-SNOW (7669), or accessing the UNM main website <http://www.unm.edu> and click on the red bar labeled "Emergency Notification System".

Phase I Students

All Phase I medical students follow the same rules that are in effect for the UNM community. For example, if UNM announces a two-hour delay, that delay applies to Phase I medical students.

Phase II and III Students

Clinical responsibilities

Phase II and III students participating in clinical sites do not follow the delay / closure status of main campus but should attend scheduled clinical duties unless it is unsafe to do so:

- Phase II and III students are expected to be at clinical sites as scheduled, but should take reasonable and safe measures in attempting to meet their medical school clinical obligations.
- A student may need to leave the clinical site early to avoid hazardous driving conditions which may occur late in the day as temperatures drop.
- A student may need to stay home during inclement weather based on personal circumstances such as the student's own medical or physical limitations, where the student lives, availability of transportation, and family care responsibilities.
- Students must notify the clerkship coordinator and the supervising resident or faculty preceptor of any absences if the student will not be able to travel to the clinical site safely or must leave early.

Tests on a snow day

For written or computerized exam components:

- If there is a two hour delay, written, computerized, and lab exams will be delayed two hours.
- If there is a four hour delay, written, computerized, and lab exams will be delayed four hours.
- If the day is canceled entirely, the exam components for that day will be canceled entirely, but may be rescheduled for another day.

For standardized patient (SP) encounters:

- If there is two hour delay, the entire schedule will be shifted forward two hours. For instance, if your first encounter was scheduled to begin at 8:00, your first encounter will now begin at 10:00.

- If the first encounter was scheduled to begin at 12:30, then the first encounter will now begin at 2:30.
- If there is a four hour delay, the SP encounters will be canceled for that day.
- If the day is canceled entirely, the SP encounters for that day will be canceled entirely.

Responsible Office:	Office of Undergraduate Medical Education
Approving Body:	Curriculum Committee
Date of Revision:	3/24/11; 5/31/17
Scope:	Medical Students, Faculty and Staff