

Dear Colleague,

During their first year of medical school, students have a mandatory Family Medicine Experience of 6 half-days with a Family Physician. Students primarily observe you, although we hope that as they learn communication and physical exam skills in their Skilled Clinician unit, they may be able to practice skills such as taking vitals or starting the history.

Students would be assigned on either a Monday or Tuesday afternoon and there are 4 blocks available. You would receive an honorarium of \$125 for the 6 half-days. **Physicians are able to participate in any or all of the blocks.** The dates of the four blocks are:

- September 21 - October 30, 2020
- November 2 – December 11, 2020
- January 18 - February 26, 2021
- March 1 - April 16, 2021 (March Break from Mar 15-19)

Prior to the start of this unit, students will have had PPE training and NSHA continues to support the provision of PPE to you for any medical students working in your clinical setting. It is hoped that students will be able to join you for in-person patient visits for the rotation, however we understand that many of you may still be providing primarily virtual care. This, too, is a very important learning opportunity for our medical students. There are several strategies to include them in virtual care. You could conduct a phone call with a patient on speaker phone with both of you sitting in the same room together. Phone calls can be merged together so that the students could join a phone call remotely. If conducting video visits the student can be invited to attend the video appointment. Teaching resources have been and continue to be developed to assist us all in this new teaching environment. We will select those most relevant to you to assist you in developing more comfort with this type of learner-teacher interaction and are happy to discuss with you individually about which methods might work best in your situation.

Thank you for considering participating in this important experience for our medical students.

Please contact Denise Lavoie, Physician Resource Officer, Department of Family Medicine, (fmfocus@dal.ca) if you are interested in participating.

Thank you!!