

Fieldwork Placement Arrangement in times of Service Disruption

The COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergency have created new challenges to fieldwork education. It may affect the fieldwork arrangement due to the disruption of service provisions. While the fieldwork arrangement in each agency or service unit is likely to be highly contextual and should be understood within the placement contexts, below is a general guideline for agencies, fieldwork supervisors and placement students.

1. If there are any disruptions of service operations and provisions of the agency, fieldwork supervisors should contact the respective Programme Fieldwork Coordinators immediately.
2. Fieldwork supervisors and placement students should be in close communication with their agencies to establish workable solutions while ensuring educational standards and safety.
3. Flexibility and alternative approach to fieldwork assignments will be adopted without compromising learning, service needs and code of ethics that underpin fieldwork education. Consent of the agencies should be required for any adaptations to fieldwork assignments.
4. The Director of Fieldwork Education should be informed of any decision about adjustment in fieldwork arrangement via the Programme Fieldwork Coordinators.
5. Fieldwork supervisors and placement students are encouraged to utilize the listed alternate learning activities proposed by the Fieldwork Coordinating Team when work from home arrangement is in place.
6. Fieldwork supervisors and placement students are reminded to follow all the precautionary measures and guidelines recommended by the Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/tc/index.html>), other Government bodies (e.g Education Bureau, Social Welfare Department) and agencies.
7. Fieldwork is a mandatory component to fulfill requirements of the Hong Kong Social Workers Registration Board. A total of 800 fieldwork hours is needed. Any lost hours due to pandemic have to be made up with collaborative decisions reached between agency, the Fieldwork Coordinating Team, fieldwork supervisors and placement students.