



NOTIFICATION OF PREGNANCY PROCEDURE

Pregnancy will not be grounds for dismissal. However, academic and clinical standards will not be lowered. It is recommended that the student inform the Program Director (*in writing*) to declare her pregnancy so that the requirements of 10 CFR 20.2106 (e) may be met. The Associate of Science in Radiography program will maintain the records of dose to the embryo/fetus with the records of dose to the pregnant woman. The declaration of pregnancy will be kept on file in the Student Record.

Under the current regulations (which are consistent with the Supreme Court decision in the case of UAW vs. Johnson Controls), a woman has the right to choose whether or not to declare her pregnancy; including the right to revoke her declaration after it is made. A woman's withdrawal of her declaration of pregnancy does not alter the requirement of 10 CFR 20.2106 (e) that the school maintain the records of dose to the embryo/fetus that were prepared as a result of the woman's declaration of pregnancy.

A student that chooses to withdraw her declaration of pregnancy should inform the Program Director (*in writing*) of her decision.

A student may opt to continue in the program without modification or use her allowed semester absences for traditional post-delivery time off. This allows the student to complete all requirements for completion of the program within the scheduled time period. If the student needs more than the allowed semester absences, a make-up schedule must be arranged and approved by the program director and clinical coordinator. The student also has the option to schedule a Leave of Absence (LOA). In this case, due to the cohort style of the program, program completion and the registry date may be moved to the following year. The following information should be read by and explained to each current or prospective female student. All female students are required to sign a Pregnancy Policy form to verify their understanding of the pregnancy policy. Below is directly from the current CoxHealth policy:

1. The requirements of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the recommendations of the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP) recognize the unusual susceptibility of unborn children to the adverse effects of ionizing radiation. To comply with these requirements and recommendations, every fertile female who may be occupationally exposed to ionizing radiation must be instructed in special health concerns associated with exposure to radiation in the event of pregnancy.
2. The entire Pregnancy Policy must be read by every fertile female student that is subject to occupational exposure to ionizing radiation in the course of her training in the ASR Radiologic Technology program. All students will be given time to ask questions and are required to sign the Pregnancy Policy form to verify understanding.

3. If a student suspects she is pregnant, she should be evaluated by a physician and the pregnancy verified. Upon verification, it is recommended that she notify the Program Director, as stated above. Changes to the clinical schedule may be made to remove the pregnant student from higher exposure areas. Some recent studies have shown that the risk of leukemia and other malignancies in children increases if the mother is exposed to a significant amount of radiation during pregnancy. According to a report by the National Academy of Sciences, the incidence of leukemia among children under 10 years of age in the U.S. could rise from 3.7 cases in 10,000 children to 5.6 cases in 10,000 if the children were exposed to 1 REM of radiation before birth (a REM is a measure of occupational radiation exposure). Although other studies have shown a much smaller effect of radiation exposure, all students should be aware of any possible risk so that appropriate measures may be taken.

The following facts should be noted:

1. The first three months of pregnancy are the most critical, so students should act quickly when they suspect they may be pregnant.
2. At the present occupational exposure limits, the actual risk to the unborn is small; however, experts disagree on the exact amount of risk.
3. There is no need to be concerned about sterility or loss of ability to bear children due to occupational radiation exposure received during participation in the Radiologic Technology program. The radiation dose necessary to produce such effects is more than 100 times greater than the present occupational exposure limits. Changes to the clinical schedule may be made to remove the pregnant student from higher exposure areas.
4. The recommended dose limit during pregnancy is 0.5 REM, or equivalent, for the entire gestational period. Students are encouraged to take special action to reduce their radiation exposure, just as they might stop smoking or climb stairs more carefully to reduce possible risks to their unborn child.

****While the Cox College ASR program follows the guidelines from the CoxHealth pregnancy policy as provided above, the ASR program provides additional options compared to the health system's policy. Students who become pregnant can provide a written notice of voluntary declaration. The student may provide a written letter of withdrawal from the program, or they may request for a leave of absence (LOA). If a student chooses a LOA, they can return with the next cohort at the point where they left their current cohort semester wise. Students may continue in the program with clinical component options mutually agreed upon by the college and the student and in accordance with Title IX. The student may continue without modification to their clinical components. The ASR program wants to assure that radiation exposure to the student and the fetus are kept as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).***

Student Signature

Date

Faculty Signature/Program Director Signature

Date

Additional Faculty Signature

Date



CoxHealth Employee/Student Pregnancy Declaration Form

Declaring your pregnancy is voluntary. In order for a pregnant worker/student to take advantage of the dose monitoring provisions specified in NRC 10 CFR Part 20 (fetal monitor), the woman must declare her pregnancy in writing to the licensee (CoxHealth/Cox College). A woman may also un-declare her pregnancy.

Additional education maybe found within the Radiation Safety Program located on Policy Manager on the CoxHealth intranet. All information below is required in order to be assigned a fetal monitor.

I, _____, am **voluntarily, declaring** that I am pregnant. I understand the proper wearing of the fetal radiation monitor (worn at the waist, under the radiation shield) and on the general risk to the unborn fetus from occupational radiation exposure. I understand that I may receive more counseling on the risk from radiation exposure from the Radiation Safety Officer or Radiation Safety Coordinator if desired. I am aware there is more information available to me in the Radiation Safety Program Policy.

Your Department/Supervisor is aware of pregnancy: Yes No (pregnancy is confidential at this time) If you wish your pregnancy to remain confidential beyond this monitor wear period (month) contact the Radiation Safety Coordinator.

Facility & Department currently working in: Cox College student performing clinicals at CoxHealth and Cox College affiliated imaging facilities and departments.

Current Supervisor: Daniel J. Edwards/Sarah Godbey Phone #: 417-269-1073/269-1074

Due date if known: _____ Date of Declaration: _____

Signature: _____ Student ID number: _____

***Send this signed declaration form to the office of the CoxHealth Radiation Safety Coordinator or email to: meghan.elet@coxhealth.com**



Cox College ASR Student Pregnancy Declaration Options

I, _____, am **voluntarily, *declaring*** that I am pregnant.

By declaring pregnancy, I have been explained the options to me as a student in the ASR program and provided further instructions regarding fetal monitoring and ALARA for myself and my fetus(es).

With regards to the program, I am electing to:

Continue with the ASR program both clinically and didactically ***without*** modifications to the requirements for students.

Continue with the ASR program both clinically and didactically, ***with some*** modifications to the requirements for students during my pregnancy. My preference or my physician has advised me to request modifications (may require documentation from physician) of:

Take a leave of absence (LOA) from the ASR program and Cox College. I will follow the procedures to officially take the LOA from both. I understand that when I choose to return to the program, I will begin in the equivalent semester that I am leaving and at the beginning of that semester. I understand that if requirements have been amended since my LOA was requested, that I will need to meet the requirements of the new cohort that I will be joining.

I am electing to **allow** or **not allow** (circle one) the ASR program officials to confirm to clinical sites and other parties of interest of my pregnancy as needed.

Student Signature

Date

Faculty Signature/Program Director Signature

Date

Additional Faculty Signature

Date



Cox College ASR Student Pregnancy Undeclaring of Pregnancy

I, _____, am **voluntarily, *un-declaring*** that I am pregnant.

By undeclaring pregnancy, I am no longer requesting fetal monitoring, accommodations, or a leave of absence from the ASR program, Cox College, or CoxHealth. I will complete the undeclaration of pregnancy form for CoxHealth notifying CoxHealth of my un-declaring of pregnancy.

Student Signature

Date

Faculty Signature/Program Director Signature

Date

Additional Faculty Signature

Date



CoxHealth Employee/Student Pregnancy Un-Declaration Form

Declaring your pregnancy is voluntary. In order for a pregnant worker/student to take advantage of the dose monitoring provisions specified in NRC 10 CFR Part 20(fetal monitor), the woman must declare her pregnancy in writing to the licensee (CoxHealth/Cox College). A woman may also un-declare her pregnancy.

Additional education maybe found within the Radiation Safety Program located on Policy Manager on the CoxHealth intranet. All information below is required in order to be assigned a fetal monitor.

I, _____, am **voluntarily, *un-declaring*** that I am pregnant.

Facility & Department currently working in: Cox College student performing clinicals at CoxHealth and Cox College affiliated imaging facilities and departments.

Current Supervisor: Daniel J. Edwards/Sarah Godbey Phone #: 417-269-1073/269-1074

Date of Un-Declaration: _____

Signature: _____ Student ID number: _____

***Send this signed declaration form to the office of the CoxHealth Radiation Safety Coordinator or email to: meghan.elet@coxhealth.com**