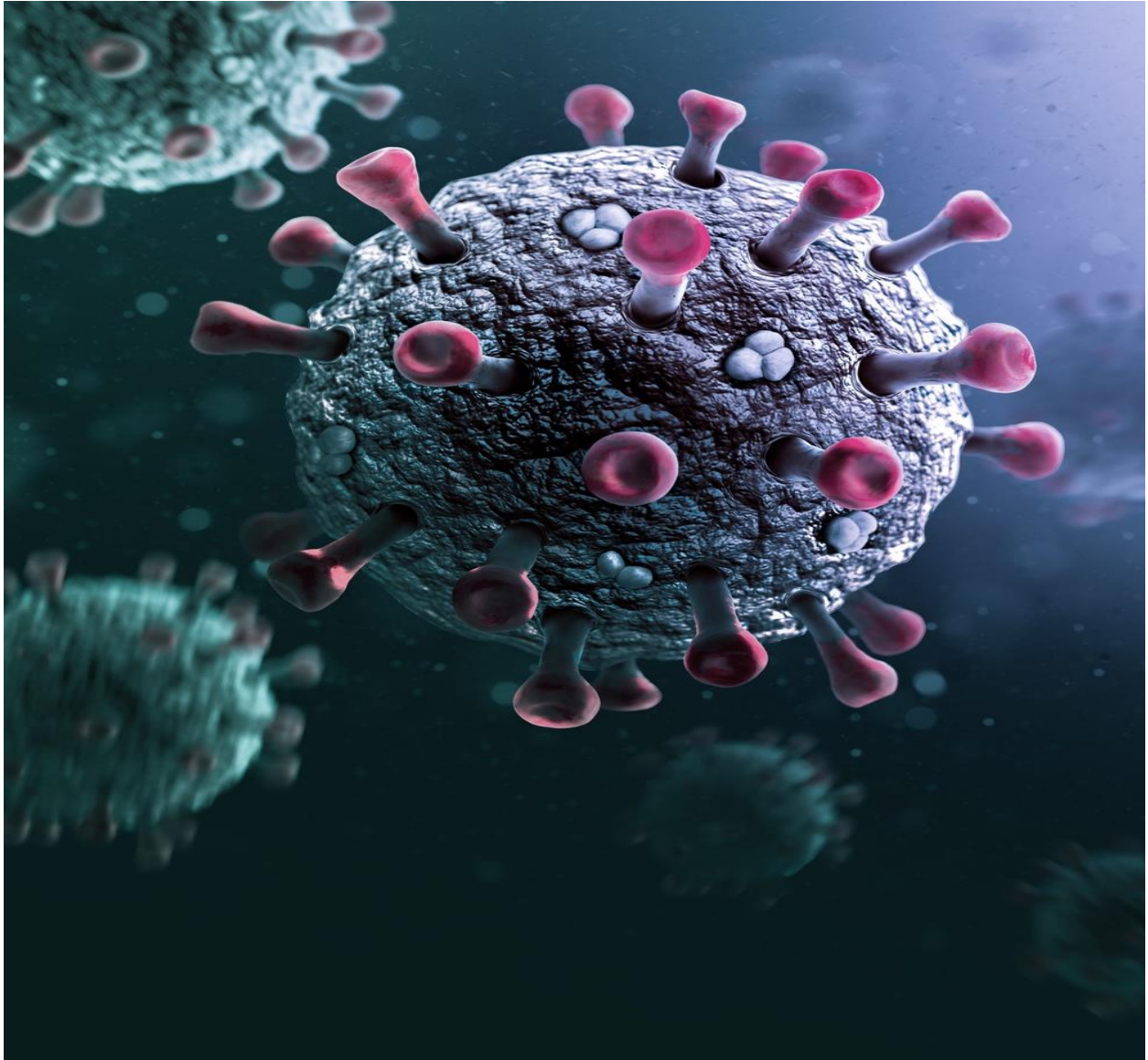


Special Report: The Impact of COVID-19 on Clinical Education



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American Society of Radiologic Technologists

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Executive Summary

Sample

For the past three years, the *Enrollment Snapshot* has included questions about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on clinical education. Additionally, in April 2020, the *COVID-19 Educational Survey* was sent to 1,516 programs directors and clinical educators. This report summarizes the responses to the questions asked in each survey.

	Return	Population	Percent Sampled	Margin of Error at the 95% Level
Apr 2020	385	1,516	25.4%	±4.3%
Oct 2020	353	957	36.9%	±4.2%
Oct 2021	277	961	28.8%	±5.0%
Oct 2022	247	1,197	20.6%	±5.6%

Students in Clinical Rotations

Asked whether the response to COVID-19 has reduced their ability to place students in a clinical setting, 35.4% said yes in October 2022; this represents a sharp decline from 98.4% in the April 2020 survey and continues a downward trend seen in the previous two *Enrollment Snapshots* (73.9% said yes in October 2020, and 50.5% said yes in October 2021).

Percentage of Clinical Rotation Schedule Eliminated

In October 2022, a majority of respondents (96.7%) said that less than twenty-five percent of their clinical rotation schedule has been eliminated as a result of COVID-19. This represents a return to normalcy from the April 2020 survey when 61.8% of respondents had eliminated their entire clinical rotation schedule.

Again, this continues a trend of increasing ability to schedule normal clinical rotations: 74.1% in October 2020 and 94.6% in October 2021 said less than twenty-five percent of their clinical rotation schedule had been eliminated.

Students Completing Clinical Procedures

The question, “How many clinical sites are currently allowing students to complete clinical procedures at their site?” was originally asked by the ARRT in their May 2020 survey,

Radiography Educational Program Director Survey Results & Analysis. Asked again in the October 2022 *Enrollment Snapshot*, 53.7% of respondents said that 10 or more clinical sites were allowing students, up from 1.0% from the May 2020 ARRT survey, 38.9% from the October 2020 *Enrollment Snapshot*, and 49.1% from the October 2021 *Enrollment Snapshot*; only a single program (0.4% of respondents) said that none of their clinical sites are allowing students, compared to 74.0% on the May 2020 ARRT survey.

Students Treating COVID-19 Patients

Asked whether their program allows students to perform exams on known or suspected COVID-19 patients, 77.2% said yes in October 2022, up slightly from 73.9% in October 2020 and from a low of 60.6% in October 2021.

Alternatives to Clinical Rotations

Asked about alternatives being used to compensate for a reduced clinical schedule, 28.5% of programs reported using virtual solutions in October 2022, part of a trending uptick from 15.8% in April 2020, to 21.4% in October 2020, to 26.2% in October 2021.

Usage of online resources showed a similar trend, with 25.7% reporting their use in 2022, up from 17.2% in April 2020, 26.0% in October 2020, and 25.2% in October 2021.

Responses have been more varied regarding the use of alternative assignments such as papers and delaying the clinical schedule to a future date; 15.9% of respondents reported using alternative assignments in October 2022, up from 8.6% in April 2020, but down from 19.2% in Oct 2020 and 15.5% in October 2021. Likewise, 46.4% of respondents said they delayed clinical schedules in April 2020; that dropped to 29.2% in October 2020, and further, to 25.6% in October 2021, before dropping again to 22.9% in October 2022.

It should be noted that many respondents indicated that their program had returned to normal clinical rotations by October 2022 and were accordingly removed from the calculation of percentages.

Program Needs

Asked about their program's most pressing needs to offset a reduced clinical schedule, in October 2022, the largest proportion of respondents (43.2%) want alternatives to clinical instruction, up from 34.9% in October 2021, 34.0% in October 2020, and even from the previous high of 38.7% in April 2020.

Another 24.7% of respondents want additional resources for online instruction in October 2022, capping a consistent increase from 7.8% in April 2020, to 12.9% in October 2020, and 18.3% in October 2021.

Fewer respondents (14.4%) want a relaxation of clinical requirements in October 2022, down from 16.0% in October 2021, 21.5% in October 2020, and a high of 23.7% in April 2020.

The same was true for an extended schedule that would allow students to meet requirements at a later date; 11.6% wanted an extended schedule in October 2022, down from 18.3% in October 2021, a high of 27.1% in October 2020, and from 17.2% in April 2020.

Few respondents have wanted a relaxation of graduation requirements at any point during the pandemic, with a high of only 5.1% in April 2020, dropping to 1.7% in October 2020, rebounding to 2.4% in October 2021, and dropping marginally to 2.1% in October 2022.

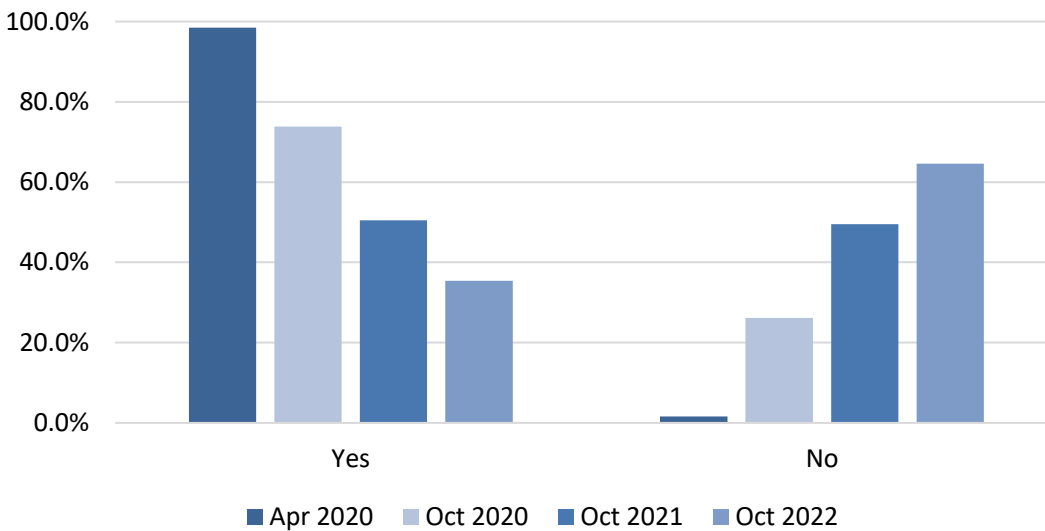
Respondents who indicated that their program had largely returned to normal operations were again removed from the calculation of percentages.

Impact on Clinical Education

Has the response to the COVID-19 virus reduced your ability to place students in a clinical rotation as you normally would?

	Apr 2020 (n = 385)	Oct 2020 (n = 352)	Oct 2021 (n = 277)	Oct 2022 (n=246)
Yes	98.4%	73.9%	50.5%	35.4%
No	1.6%	26.1%	49.5%	64.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

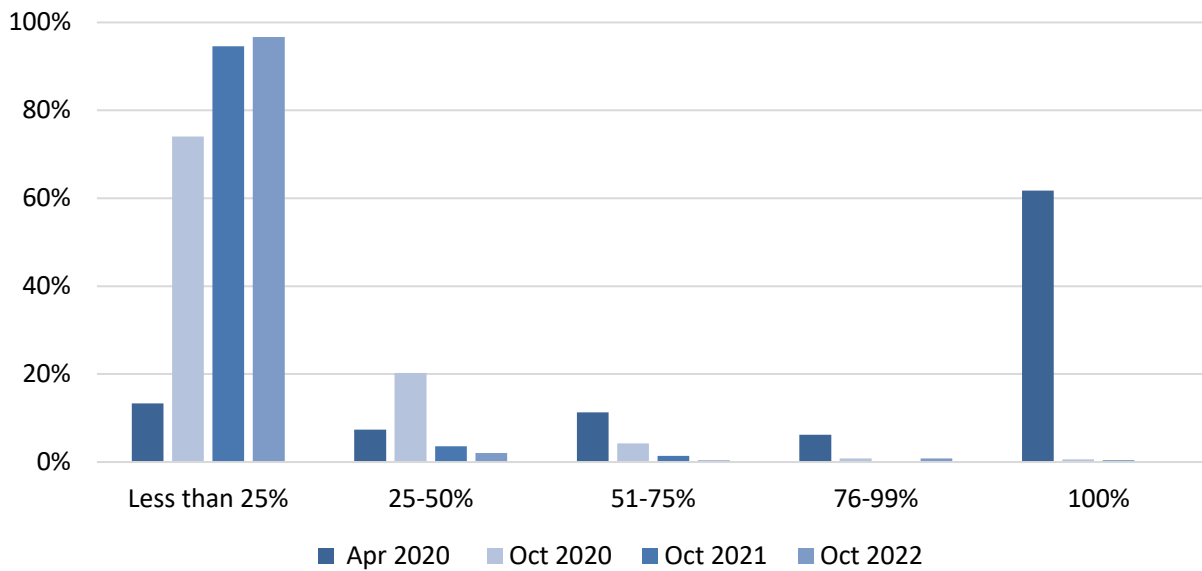
Has the response to the COVID-19 virus reduced your ability to place students in a clinical rotation as you normally would?



Approximately what percentage of the clinical rotation schedule has been eliminated due to COVID-19?

	Apr 2020 (n = 353)	Oct 2020 (n = 351)	Oct 2021 (n = 277)	Oct 2022 (n=244)
Less than 25%	13.3%	74.1%	94.6%	96.7%
25-50%	7.4%	20.2%	3.6%	2.0%
51-75%	11.3%	4.3%	1.4%	0.4%
76-99%	6.2%	0.9%	0.0%	0.8%
100%	61.8%	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

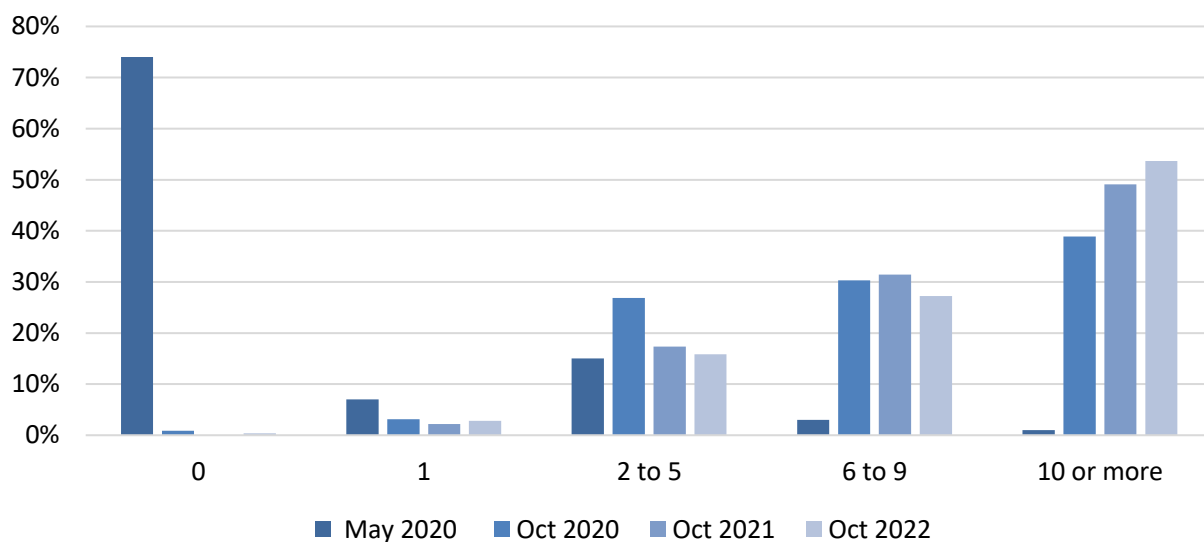
Approximately what percentage of the clinical rotation schedule has been eliminated due to COVID-19?



How many clinical sites are currently allowing students to complete clinical procedures at their site?¹

	May 2020 (n = 441)	Oct 2020 (n = 350)	Oct 2021 (n = 277)	Oct 2022 (n=246)
0	74.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%
1	7.0%	3.1%	2.2%	2.8%
2 to 5	15.0%	26.9%	17.3%	15.9%
6 to 9	3.0%	30.3%	31.4%	27.2%
10 or more	1.0%	38.9%	49.1%	53.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

How many clinical sites are currently allowing students to complete clinical procedures at their site?

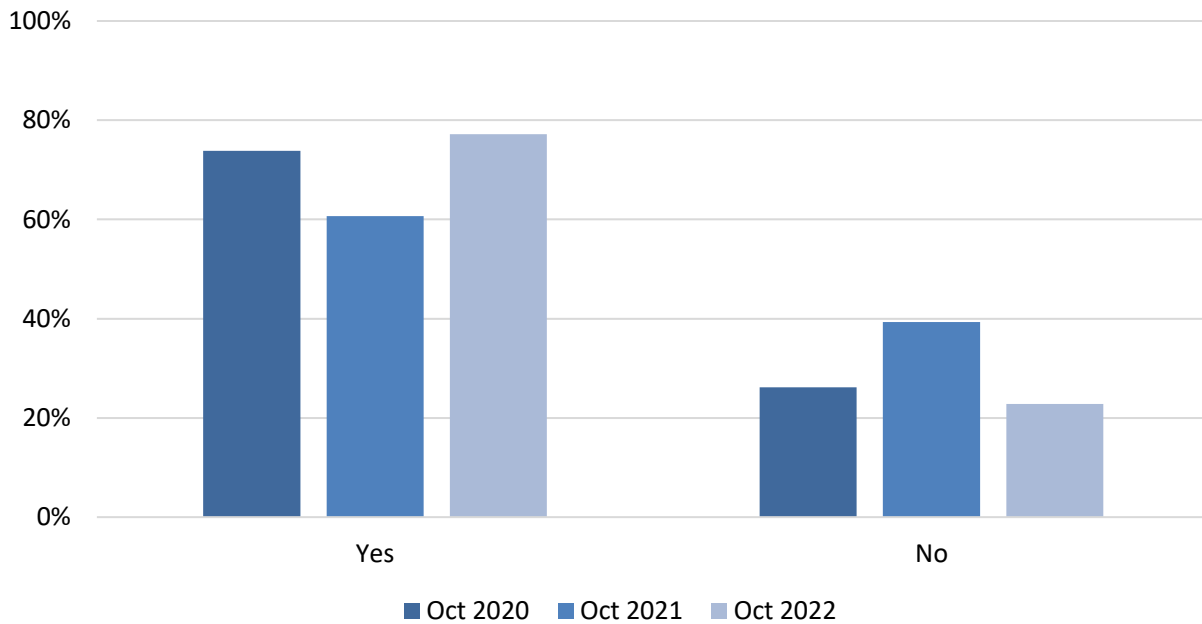


¹ This question was originally asked by the ARRT in the May 2020 survey *Radiography Educational Program Director Survey Results & Analysis*

Does your program allow students to perform examinations on known or suspected COVID-19 patients?

	Oct 2020 (n = 352)	Oct 2021 (n = 277)	Oct 2022 (n=246)
Yes	73.9%	60.6%	77.2%
No	26.1%	39.4%	22.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Does your program allow students to perform examinations on known or suspected COVID-19 patients?

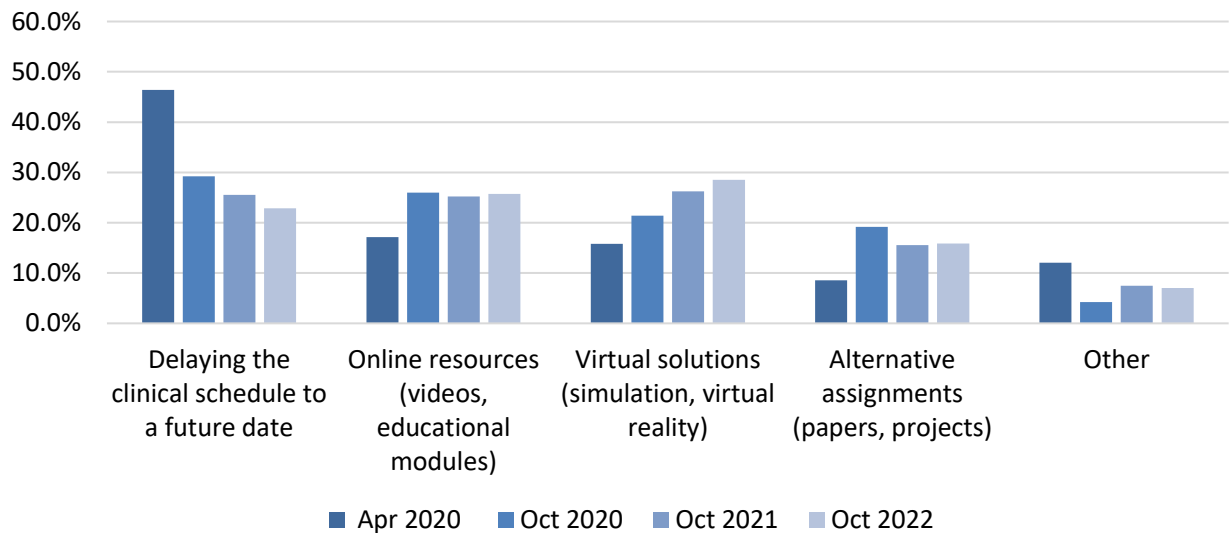


Program Alternatives and Needs

What alternatives are your program using to compensate for the reduced clinical schedule?

	Apr 2020 (n = 373)	Oct 2020 (n = 353)	Oct 2021 (n = 309)	Oct 2022 (n=126)
Delaying the clinical schedule to a future date	46.4%	29.2%	25.6%	22.9%
Online resources (videos, educational modules)	17.2%	26.0%	25.2%	25.7%
Virtual solutions (simulation, virtual reality)	15.8%	21.4%	26.2%	28.5%
Alternative assignments (papers, projects)	8.6%	19.2%	15.5%	15.9%
Other	12.1%	4.2%	7.4%	7.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

What alternatives are your program using to compensate for the reduced clinical schedule?



What is the most immediate need for your program in order to respond to the reduced clinical schedule?

	Apr 2020 (n = 372)	Oct 2020 (n = 341)	Oct 2021 (n = 169)	Oct 2022 (n=146)
Alternatives to clinical instruction	38.7%	34.0%	34.9%	43.2%
Relaxation of clinical requirements	23.7%	21.5%	16.0%	14.4%
Extended schedule for students to meet requirements at a later date	17.2%	27.1%	18.3%	11.6%
Additional resources for online instruction	7.8%	12.9%	18.3%	24.7%
Relaxation of graduation requirements	5.1%	1.7%	2.4%	2.1%
Other	7.5%	3.0%	10.1%	4.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

What is the most immediate need for your program in order to respond to the reduced clinical schedule?

