## **Attachment 1: Interview guide**

Information to the study participant

Dear Mr./Mrs...as you know, we want to explore the personal experiences of students involved in the care of COVID-19 patients during this phone call interview. We hope that your answers will help us better understand encountered challenges and help support and improve people's mental health in COVID-19 patient care. In addition, by agreeing to participate in our study, your input will help us provide students working with COVID-19 patients with better need-informed information, interventions, and professional support in the future. Thank you very much for your support in our research efforts!

You are currently involved in the care of COVID-19 patients. We would now like to ask you a few questions about your work. Our interview will last about 20 minutes. Feel free to answer the questions in any way you like. In addition, I might ask you some additional questions in response to your answers to clarify them. Do you have any questions?

Question 1: Motivations of use			
Guiding question	Maintaining questions	Additional questions	
To begin with, I would be interested to know	Personal motivation?	-	
what prompted you to volunteer to help care for	External cause?		
the COVID-19 patients?	Support?		
_	Discussion with others?		
	Etc.		

Question 2: Anticipated charges				
Guiding question	Maintaining questions	Additional questions		
What do you think working with COVID-19	What fears or concerns did you have before	-		
patients would be like before your assignment?	your first assignment?			
	What did you think contact with COVID-			
	19-tested individuals would be like before			
	your first assignment?			

Attachment 1 to: Nikendei C, Dinger-Ehrenthal U, Schumacher F, Bugaj TJ, Cranz A, Friedrich HC, Herpertz SC, Terhoeven V. *Medical students' mental burden and experiences of voluntary work in COVID-19 patient support and treatment services: a qualitative analysis.* GMS J Med Educ. 2021;38(7):Doc120. DOI: 10.3205/zma001516

	Question 3: Subjective experience	of the assignment		
Guiding question	Maintaining questions	Additional questions		
How did you experience working in COVID-19	Did your impressions change over time?	Was it depressing?		
patient care?	-What associations did you have?	Did it make you feel anxious or fearful?		
	How did you experience contact with	Did you feel panicked yourself?		
	COVID-19-tested individuals in	Did you feel powerless?		
	particular?	Or did you not "feel" much at all?		
	-What feelings did you have while working			
	with COVID-19-tested individuals?			
	-Were there situations you found			
	challenging?			
	-Did you experience any good moments?			
	What do you think about the level of	Did you feel well taken care of during your assignment?		
	organization of your assignment?	Were you able to consult experienced physicians when making difficult medical decisions?		
	What was the level of communication			
	within the team and with the physicians?			
	How did you experience the available			
	supervision on a medical level?			

Question 4: Traumatization						
Guiding question	Maintaining questions				Additional questions	
People working in close contact with physically	(Explore	depression	and	anxiety	ty -	
and mentally burdened patients, for example,	symptoms)					
because of uncertainties surrounding the disease						
and its progression, may also find that they						
become mentally burdened.						
Would you say that you have experienced						
something like this yourself?						

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Question 5: Subjective experience after deployment				
Guiding question	Maintaining questions	Additional questions		
After caring for COVID-19 patients, did you	What thoughts or feelings were on your	-		
ever feel preoccupied with something related to	mind when you went home in the evening?			
your work there?	Has anything related to your assignment			
	kept you preoccupied in particular?			
	How do you deal with your experiences			
	during your assignment?			
	Have you talked to anyone?			
	Have you asked for support? Etc.			

Question 6: Subjective experience after deployment				
Guiding question Maintaining questions Additional questions				
Do you think that your values or outlook have	-	-		
changed after working on this assignment?				

Question 7: Interventions?				
Guiding question Maintaining questions Additional questions				
What kind of support do you think students	What would be helpful from a medical	-		
working on this assignment need?	perspective?			
	What would be helpful for your mental			
	health?			

Question 8: Further assignments?			
Guiding question	Maintaining questions	Additional questions	
Would you volunteer for an assignment working with COVID-19 patients again?	-	-	

Question 9: Conclusion			
Guiding question	Maintaining questions	Additional questions	
In conclusion, what have you been able to draw from your experience caring for COVID-19		-	
patients in the field?			

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