Microsoft Teams

Due to HIPPA and security advisements the college will begin using Microsoft Teams for research purposes and college meetings with secure information. CON can continue to use Zoom for classes, meetings with students, proctoring, other meetings that don’t contain sensitive data etc.

Microsoft Teams is a unified communication tool that has many useful features such as workplace chat, file sharing capabilities, and a web conferencing function. It can be used with various applications to enhance communication and collaboration between employees and business partners.

Microsoft Teams is included in our Office 365 package and includes very robust online meeting (video conferencing) tools, at no additional cost to the college. And the best part is, everyone can already utilize the system and host meetings today. The experience is very similar to zoom, but is more integrated into our office 365 environment. There are different ways to go about using the online meeting tools. One way is to create a team, the other is to use your calendar to schedule meetings and simply make it a teams meeting.

Teams can also be setup for courses, where assignments, quizzes, documents and chat sessions are included, among other things like Online meetings. You can also use Microsoft Teams Online meetings by yourself to simply record a video without anyone else being a part of the meeting. Recordings of online meetings are stored in the streams application, within our office 365 environment and can be shared.

Participants outside of the University may also participate in online meetings in Teams.

Is Teams HIPAA Compliant?

Microsoft Teams includes security features such as access controls, single sign-on, two-factor authentication, and the platform saves audit logs. All data uploaded to or created through Microsoft Teams are encrypted at rest and in transit and are stored on protected servers in North America.

With respect to security, Microsoft Teams complies with HIPAA Security rule requirements (provided it is configured to log users out of of the system after a period of inactivity), but before HIPAA-covered entities can use this platform along with any ePHI, they must first enter into a business associate agreement (BAA) with Microsoft. Microsoft will sign a BAA with HIPAA covered entities.

Provided a signed BAA is obtained, Microsoft Teams may be regarded as a HIPAA-compliant collaboration platform; nonetheless, it is the HIPAA-covered entity’s responsibility to make sure the platform is utilized in way that is HIPAA-compliant. The University has signed a BAA with Microsoft.
If you are interested in finding out more, or getting a walk through of Teams, please let us know @ nurshd@mailbox.sc.edu. We are happy to chat about this!