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Academic-Practice Partnerships During the COVID-19 Crisis

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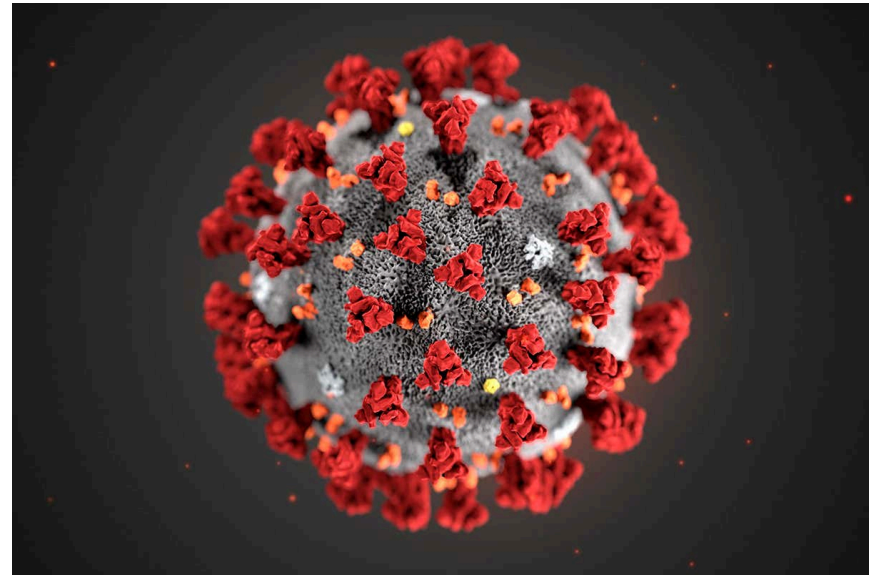
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National Council of State Boards of Nursing



Background

- COVID-19 placing a significant demand on the entire nursing workforce
- Simultaneously, the pandemic has affected pre-licensure RN and PN/VN nursing students across the country.
- Clinical experiences with patients are an essential part of every nursing program curriculum and are mandated by the State Boards of Nursing for licensure.
- Many hospitals and health care facilities have determined that pre-licensure RN and PN/VN nursing students should not be in contact with patients and have discontinued student clinical experiences in their facility.



**Policy Brief:
U.S. Nursing Leadership Supports
Practice/Academic
Partnerships to Assist the Nursing
Workforce during the
COVID-19 Crisis**

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Proposal

- Pre-licensure RN students from diploma, associate degree and baccalaureate degree nursing programs and PN/VN students from certificate nursing programs
- Nursing students would be employed by a facility on a full- or part-time basis and would work in the role of a student nurse for compensation and...
- In conjunction with the student's nursing education program, the student would receive academic credit toward meeting clinical requirements.



Benefits

- Will provide clinical education to assist in meeting program requirements
- An unparalleled opportunity for nursing students to assist the nation in a time of crisis
- Learn the principles of population health and emergency management.
- Demonstrates that in the midst of a periling disruption in the environment, such as COVID-19, continuous innovation can occur.



Recommendations

- Nursing program leaders/faculty are encouraged to work with health care facility representatives to align clinical skills and competencies with the nursing student-employee work role/responsibilities.
- Health care facilities and nursing programs are encouraged to collaborate to identify ways to accomplish appropriate faculty supervision of the nursing student-employee to achieve the final learning outcomes of the nursing program



Recommendations

- Nursing programs should consult with their State Board of Nursing to ensure clinical requirements/regulations would be met with this opportunity and experience.
- Nursing programs are responsible for informing nursing students of the risks and responsibilities associated with working in a health care facility at this time.
- Additionally, nursing programs are responsible for communicating with students about their rights to be protected from infection and their options for completing the clinical practice requirements of the nursing program.

Endorsements

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