

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

ORDER

Whereas, on March 10, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont (the Governor), in response to the global pandemic of 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), declared a public health and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State of Connecticut pursuant to sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to remain in effect through September 9, 2020, unless sooner terminated by the Governor; and

Whereas, the Governor's Executive Order 7K, dated March 23, 2020, authorized the Commissioner of Public Health (the Commissioner) to temporarily waive, modify or suspend any regulatory requirements adopted by the Commissioner or any Boards or Commissions under Chapters 368a, 368d, 368v, 369 to 381a, inclusive, 382a, 383-388, inclusive, 398 to 399, inclusive, 400a, 400c and 474 of the Connecticut General Statutes as the Commissioner deems necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the public health; and

Whereas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic there is a significant need for the expansion of the healthcare workforce in Connecticut; and

Whereas, section 20-90-55(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires Practical Nursing Education Programs to be a minimum of fifteen hundred (1500) hours over no less than ten (10) months with fifty percent (50%) of contact hours being in supervised direct client care experiences and observational experiences appropriate to the Program's Educational Outcomes (hereinafter "in-person clinical experiences"); and

Whereas, in response to the Governor's March 20, 2020, Executive Order 7H requiring all businesses to reduce in-person workforces, clinical affiliation agencies cancelled student clinical rotations making it impossible for students in Practical Nursing Programs to complete the required in-person clinical experiences in accordance with § 20-90-55(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; and

Whereas, various Practical Nursing Programs, including Lincoln Technical Institute, Stone Academy, and Porter & Chester Institute developed and presented comprehensive plans to the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing to utilize established virtual clinical resources for replacement of in-person clinical experiences required by § 20-90-55(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; and

Whereas, The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing acknowledged the need for schools to be allowed to provide virtual clinical experiences for students enrolled in Practical Nursing Programs in place of the in-person



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Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
www.ct.gov/dph

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clinical experiences required by § 20-90-55(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies to fill the healthcare workforce gap during the pandemic, reviewed the various plans offered by the Practical Nursing Programs, and identified practical nursing programs that developed virtual simulation experiences the Board deemed appropriate substitutions for required in-person clinical experiences; and

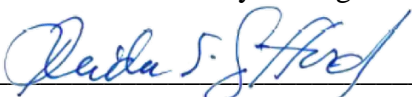
Whereas, the Commissioner finds the need to fill the healthcare workforce gap during the pandemic of significant importance and graduates from Practical Nursing Programs to be a resource to ensure adequate health care staffing; and

Whereas, the Commissioner desires that all Practical Nursing Programs in Connecticut be permitted to provide virtual clinical experiences to enrolled students for up to 25% (twenty five percent) of the in-person clinical experiences required by § 20-90-55(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as long as such virtual clinical experiences are in compliance with the Simulation Guidelines for Prelicensure Nursing Programs established by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

Now, therefore, in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the public health, and in accord with the authority set forth above, unless sooner modified or terminated by me or unless the Governor sooner repeals or modifies the declared public health and civil preparedness emergency or Executive Order Nos. 7K or 7H, **I hereby order that, effective immediately, for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency:**

Section 20-90-55(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is hereby amended to allow Practical Nursing Programs in Connecticut to use virtual clinical resources in compliance with the Simulation Guidelines for Prelicensure Nursing Programs established by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as a substitute for up to 25% (twenty five percent) of in-person clinical experiences.

Ordered this 14th day of August 2020



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner