

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2020-109

TO: Health Care Facilities

FROM: Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deidre S. Gifford".

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA
Adelita Orefice, MPM, JD, CHC, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner
Barbara Cass, RN., Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch
Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section
Christian D. Andresen, MPH, CPH, Section Chief, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section

DATE: November 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Nursing and Other Allied Health Student Clinical Rotations

The Department continues to hear that allied health and nursing programs are struggling to identify clinical placements that will allow students to fulfill graduation requirements. This situation may delay the ability for many of these students to graduate, become licensed, and fortify Connecticut's health care workforce during these unprecedented times.

This memo serves as a reminder that visitor restrictions do not apply to students participating in clinical rotations unless specifically included in any future guidance or order.

Student participation in clinical rotations is outlined in an agreement between the schools and the clinical rotation sites. These agreements must clearly outline who will provide PPE and the scope of the clinical assignments (e.g. will students be caring for individuals who are positive for COVID-19).



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The agreement must also outline which entity will train students, *prior to participating in clinical rotations*, about infection control principles related to caring for a patient with an infectious disease. This training must include a focus on hand hygiene; and donning and doffing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Thank you for your work during these extraordinary times.