



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services
State of Connecticut

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

To: DDS Public Programs and Providers

From: Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner

CC: Mason, Deputy Commissioner; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; Valencia Bagby-Young, Director of Health and Clinical Services, Regional Directors, Private ARDs, ARC of CT, The Alliance

Date: March 17, 2021

Re: Nursing and Other Allied Health Student Clinical Rotations

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) recognizes the impact of COVID-19 on students of allied health and nursing programs who are required to complete their clinical rotations in order to graduate. Clinical opportunities for students/interns facilitates establishing communities of qualified healthcare providers who are comfortable and experienced in working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The department encourages public programs and private providers to support opportunities for allied health/nursing students/interns to participate in clinical rotations under the supervision of allied health professionals. Visitor restrictions should not apply to students/interns providing they utilize the appropriate PPE.

Recommendations for accommodating students and interns include the following:

1. Volunteer application or other required documents are completed
2. Criminal background checks completed/verified
3. Personal protective equipment is provided by the agency or clinical site, with the exception of N95 respirators when necessary. N95 respirators and the required fit-testing shall be the responsibility of the student and allied health program.
4. Each student/intern shall be assigned an appropriate allied health professional preceptor.
5. An agreement between the agency and allied health/nursing program or student/intern shall outline the scope of the clinical rotation or activities for which the student/intern will be involved.
6. The allied health/nursing program or student/intern is responsible for liability insurance when required.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting students/interns of allied health and nursing programs.