Louisiana State Board of Nursing
17373 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810
Telephone: (225) 755-7500
www.lsb.state.la.us

March 16, 2020

Dear Nursing Program Deans, Directors, and Educators:

Several of you have contacted the Board recently and subsequent discussions ensued at the most recent LaCANE virtual meeting (March 12th) regarding the development of alternative education plans due to recent events related to the emergence of coronavirus in Louisiana and other states. The Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) is cognizant that the issues are rapidly evolving and we remain attuned and responsive to the unique and unexpected effects of these circumstances upon Louisiana including but not limited to the impact on nursing education.

LSBN is committed to remaining fluid and flexible in partnering with nursing education programs that are developing innovative approaches to accommodate education and workforce needs. Considering the needs, resources, partnerships, etc. of each educational program and its current cohorts are unique, please submit to LSBN staff the course of action your program anticipates taking as well as any current program restrictions imposed, clinical site limitations, planned modifications, timelines, etc. so that we can assist you and provide information and updates to the Board and other stakeholders. If your program is experiencing clinical impact, please include the agency/clinical site imposing restrictions, number of students impacted, level a and current clinical course of these students, and the number of remaining clinical hours to complete that course.

We recognize the unanticipated situations the education programs are experiencing related to temporary program closures, institutional transitions to distance education methods, and changes in availability of sites for clinical learning experiences. When considering how best to proceed, due consideration should be given to the possible impact that issuance of any incomplete grades may have on academic progression policies, financial aid eligibility, program completion, etc. The responsibility of checking with your accreditation bodies remains with the program.
LSBN rules are broad and, as with all aspects of education, the student assessment and competency validation are key to any decisions you make as an educational nursing program keeping in mind that nursing is a clinically based profession with the ultimate goal of preparing graduates to practice competently and safely in the provision of quality care.

For the Public Trust,

Karen Lyon, PhD, MBA, APRN, NEA-BC
Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer Wright, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP
Chief Nursing Officer