March 11, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Contingency Plans

Dear Nursing Program Administrator,

On March 9, 2020, Governor Philip D. Murphy declared a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency in the State of New Jersey due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Following that declaration, many of this state’s educational institutions have suspended in-person classes and are holding classes online for the foreseeable future.

The Board of Nursing has received several inquiries concerning its nursing education program requirements. At this time, the Board recommends that nursing programs follow the directions of their parent educational institutions, as well as the recommendations of the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (https://www.acenursing.org/about/news/covid-19-correspondence/), the American Association of Colleges of Nursing – Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (https://www.aacnnursing.org/), and the Department of Education (https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus?src=feature).

If a nursing program determines that it is necessary to alter its method of curriculum delivery or clinical hours, the Board requests that the program advise the Board in writing of the proposed action to be taken, along with a plan for students to obtain established learning objectives.

The Board also recommends that nursing education programs request that clinical agencies who have students on-site consider using simulation or telecommunications to satisfy clinical requirements during this critical time. Additionally, in the event of school closures, lectures’ content, if possible, should be delivered by distance education to replace class time or an extension should be permitted for program completion.

We will contact you again via email if and when we have additional information.

Sincerely,

Joanne Leone
Executive Director
Board of Nursing