



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 27, 2020

GUIDANCE ON CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT SCHOOLS

On March 26, 2020, the Workforce Board, along with Washington's Department of Health, received an interpretation on the [20-25 Governor's proclamation](#), specifically for Nursing and Nursing Assistant Training Schools. That response clarifies that nursing assistant students are considered essential within Proclamation 20-25. What this means is:

- Currently approved nursing assistant training programs may apply for approval to transition their classroom/theory content to a live, online format (in-person classroom/theory teaching is still not allowed)
- Regarding nursing assistant skills labs and clinicals, the information relating to [Proclamation 20-12](#) remains in effect, including strict implementation and monitoring of social distancing measures by designated school officials, and following clinical protocols aligned with public health guidance. Even so, ***we still encourage nursing assistant programs to provide online training only, allowing students who choose to do so to work as Nursing Assistant Registered (NARs) until the crisis is over.***

NEXT STEPS

If you have a currently approved nursing assistant training program, you can apply for temporary approval to transition to a live, online format for classroom/theory instruction during the COVID-19 crisis by completing the following two items:

1. You must email the following information to the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC) at NCQAC.Education@DOH.WA.GOV:
 - Type of Class (i.e. Traditional Nursing Assistant, HCA Bridge, etc.)
 - Student Roster of Names
 - Class Start Date
 - Schedule of Live, Online Classes (dates/times/end date)
 - Plan for Evaluation (how will knowledge be evaluated in this format?)
 - Program Director attestation that all usual content will be delivered
2. You must submit a completed [Temporary Distance Education/Online Request Form](#) to the Workforce Board. You do NOT need to attach a plan (requested in question 5) – the information you submit to the NCQAC will fulfill that portion of the form.

By completing both steps above, you are attesting that your school can meet the NCQAC's criteria to offer online learning. Taking a traditional school environment online is not a simple task – nor is it one that should be attempted without serious consideration of the practicality and risk. ***Please consider the Nursing Assistant Registered (NAR) alternative to the traditional lab and clinical.***

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For general questions regarding this bulletin, please contact:

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