



Nursing Student's Guide: Responding to The COVID-19 Pandemic

PREPARING FOR AN ASSIGNMENT/GETTING STARTED

Understanding COVID-19 :

Consider benefits and risks for clinicians and students in responding to the COVID-19 emergency

- o **REVIEW:** *Benefits, Risks and Consideration for Clinicians and Students Responding to COVID-19*

Working with Your Academic Nursing Program :

Some nursing programs are working directly with local health care organizations regarding student assignments. Contact the nursing program you are enrolled in for further information associated with coursework, work study, or independent study options

- o **Review your Student Handbook or discuss with your program administration the potential for receiving academic credit for clinical work outside of the academic institution**

FINDING VOLUNTEER OR PAID OPPORTUNITIES:

Paid Opportunities

Health Care Organizations: Some organizations like the [Hospital Association of Southern California \(HASC\)](#) are recruiting volunteers and/or hiring temporary health care personnel and students directly – these continue to change. Contact employers directly through their recruitment processes and web sites

California Health Corps: Contact directly for information, registration, temporary hiring, and placement options

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

Call for COVID-19 employment opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

American Red Cross: Volunteer opportunities include supporting blood donations and delivering much-needed services in the community. Wide range of remote (work-from home) options

Preparing for an Assignment:

Anticipate team-based care models involving various health care professionals, support personnel and volunteers working together. Staffing ratios may be expanded to meet emergent needs based on available personnel and resources.

- o Know and understand your role, key functions and responsibilities within the team
- o Inquire about and clarify key functions that require prior authorization, or direct supervision to be carried out
- o Seek Clarification often and request assistance as needed
- o **Review : What Nurses need to know to be prepared (recorded webinar)**

QUALIFICATIONS AND CREDENTIALING

Every clinical agency is required to review and approve your education and qualifications. This process is called credentialing. In order to streamline the credentialing process, you should bring the following documentation. Every institution is different so some will require these documents in addition to others

- o Provide documentation as requested for approval and clearance to volunteer or for paid work. This may include a health screening, background check, evidence of experience and competencies, BLS Card.
- o Once cleared, contact the clinical site, complete orientation requirements and competency validation as identified and applicable to role and level of practice
- o Confirm location and scheduling; report as assigned

PREPARING FOR NURSING STUDENT PRACTICE

Student Practice: RN pre-licensure students assigned to provide patient care do so under the direction and supervision of a licensed RN or other licensed professional. Nursing services delivered by students are competency-based, within the overall scope and level defined by the BRN

- o **Review BRN Emergency Care Matrix**
- o Obtain your *Skills Competency Checklist* from the nursing program you are enrolled in as evidence of current competency
- o Provide a copy of your *Skills Competency Checklist* during the recruitment process
- o Bring a copy of your *Skills Competency Checklist* and course syllabus with course objectives and student learning outcomes with you to the practice site
- o **DISCUSS with the clinical site AND your supervising clinicians your course objectives and student learning outcomes to have you work as a nursing student and not another role**
- o Review information on various patient population/acuity levels
- o Review Current BRN announcements and COVID-19 Information Updates:
 - [California Board of Registered Nursing](#)
 - [COVID-19 Information and Updates](#)
 - BRN News Release: [Board of Registered Nursing Urges Nursing Students to Help during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION:

Students assigned through their nursing programs should:

- o Obtain information and guidance regarding clinical site location, scheduling, and pre-assignment preparation from your nursing program
 - o Seek direction and obtain supervision from the academic faculty or designated RNs identified when providing patient care or services
- Students assigned through/by an organization outside of their nursing programs should:
- o Obtain information and guidance regarding clinical site location, scheduling, and pre-assignment preparation directly from the organization that assigned you
 - o Verify who (RN or licensed professional) the clinical site designates to provide direction and supervision to you when providing patient care

COVID-19 EDUCATION FOR HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL

Prevention and Control of COVID-19 Transmission

Review and be aware of steps to prevent exposure and transmission of COVID-19 in the community

- o [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
 - o [Infection, Prevention and Control \(IPC\) for Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) Self-paced course
 - o [Emerging Respiratory Viruses \(including COVID-19\): Methods for Detection, Prevention, Response and Control](#) (Self-paced course)
- Review and adopt specific practices for healthcare professionals working directly with populations that have or are suspected to have COVID-19
- o [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
 - o [World Health Organization Online Courses \(CE, Certificates of Completion\)](#)

Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Review proper use of PPE for respiratory transmission applicable to health care personnel. Familiarize yourself with different types of PPE and levels of protection as supplies from various vendors may be used

- o [Strategies to Optimize PPE Use \(how to put on and take off PPE\)](#)
- o [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- o [PPE Donning and Doffing Sequence for COVID 19 \(video\)](#)
- o [NETEC Personal Protective Equipment for COVID-19 \(video\)](#)

PATIENT ASSESSMENT AND CARE

Self assess your current knowledge and experience caring for patients with respiratory illnesses, identify your learning needs. Review information and online materials to strengthen your knowledge base.

- o **California Simulation Alliance** Education modules, on-line training materials and resources
- o **COVID-19 Resource Center and Helpful Links)**
- o Review and be familiar with the range of signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- o Be prepared to identify early signs of respiratory distress and assess symptoms of progressive decline based on your level of competency
- o Be aware of your skills and limitations, seeking guidance and support from the experienced RN or licensed healthcare professional you are assigned and working with
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DECISION-MAKING SKILLS AND CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE:

Making decisions and solving problems effectively is a necessary and vital part of emergency management and responder skills.

- o Be aware of crisis decision making methods and ethical issues that may arise and should be addressed by health care professionals you are working with - [FEMA Emergency Management Institute: Decision Making and Problem Solving \(online course\)](#)
- o Understand how Crisis Standards of Care can help providers and guide decisions about care and operations as part of an emergency response - [The Network for Public Health Law: Crisis Standards of Care Guidance](#)

ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR TRAINING AND/OR CLINICAL HOURS:

Each nursing program determines if training or clinical hours are or are not applicable to program coursework, and how academic credit may be granted. **Contact your school to determine and confirm:**

- ✓ **Credit as part of usual clinical rotation when assigned through your Academic Program or**
- ✓ **If and how credit for clinical hours worked assigned outside of you Academic Program can be granted or**
- ✓ **Credit through a work-study program (i.e. California Community Colleges offer a course called Cooperative Work Experience) or**
- ✓ **Credit by prior experience or**
- ✓ **Credit by Exam AND Documentation Required**

COVID-19 CONTROL AND PREVENTION IN CALIFORNIA

- Be aware of the status of COVID-19 in your area; follow state and public health guidelines within the community
- Inform patients and families regarding state and public health guidelines, provide education and validate understanding regarding control and prevention
- o [California State Government Office: COVID-19 Information](#)
- o [California Department of Public Health : Daily COVID-19 Updates](#)
- o [Check your County Health Department website for the county you live or work in for more specific details](#)

TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF

Self-Care and Wellness

- Take breaks from the news
- Take time to unwind
- Connect with others
- Set goals and priorities for work-school-life balance
- Focus on the facts
- Take care of your body

Additional Self-Care Resources:

- o [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Emergency Responders-Tips for Taking Care of Yourself](#)
- o [National Institute of Health: Daily Life and Coping](#)
- o [State of California Office of the Surgeon General: Play Book: Stress Relief During COVID-19](#)
- o [Minnesota Department of Health: Psychological First Aid Strategies in Responding to COVID-19 \(video\)](#)

