March 19, 2020

On March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency due to novel coronavirus (COVID-19). In the declaration, Executive Order 51, the Governor directed state agencies to render appropriate assistance to prepare for and mitigate the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. In doing so, he ordered authorization for the heads of executive branch agencies, on behalf of their regulatory boards as appropriate, and with the concurrence of their Cabinet Secretary, to waive any state requirement or regulation.

Pursuant to the authority granted to the agency head by Executive Order 51 (2020), I hereby waive the below Nursing Education Program regulations:

- **18VAC90-27-100[A]** Minimum hours of direct client care.
  
  “A nursing education program preparing a student for licensure as a registered nurse shall provide a minimum of 500 hours of direct client care supervised by qualified faculty. A nursing education program preparing a student for licensure as a practical nurse shall provide a minimum of 400 hours of direct client care supervised by qualified faculty. Direct client care hours shall include experiences and settings as set forth in 18VAC90-27-90 B 1.”
  
  **Waived for those students who are on schedule to meet the requirements for program completion/graduation.**

- **18VAC90-27-100(D)(1)** Simulation for total clinical hours.
  
  “No more than 25% of direct client contact hours may be simulation. For prelicensure registered nursing programs, the total of simulated client care hours cannot exceed 125 hours (25% of the required 500 hours). For prelicensure practical nursing programs, the total of simulated client care hours cannot exceed 100 hours (25% of the required 400 hours).”
  
  **Waived for those students who are on schedule to meet the requirements for program completion/graduation.**

- **18VAC90-27-100(D)(2)** Simulation for clinical hours in a single course.
  
  **Waived for all students enrolled in a clinical course, “no more than 50% of the total clinical hours for any course may be used as simulation.”**
This waiver does not waive statutory requirements or limitations. This waiver shall take effect on March 19, 2020, and shall remain in full force and in effect until June 10, 2020, unless sooner amended or rescinded by further executive order.

David E. Brown, D.C.
Director