



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health Professions

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Sandra Whitley Ryals
Director

January 14, 2010

Dear Colleague:

The Department of Health Professions (DHP) is proud to continue Virginia's tradition to better leverage technology by implementing online licensure applications for Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN). Related fees will also be accepted online by credit card.

This streamlined application process for RNs and LPNs marks the first time the state's 350,000 health professions will be able to participate in DHP data collection improvements that are both cost effective and efficient.

Nursing Education Programs and their 2010 graduates as well as new applicants from other states will have an opportunity to be part of Phase I of this plan in preparation for the addition of more than 80 health professions licensed in Virginia by DHP who will also convert to this system in the future.

The Department of Health Professions plans to work in concert with Nursing Education Programs to reach their students with this important update. Our collaboration will result in the implementation of a smoother application process in the near future for those who work in Virginia's health professions.

DHP anticipates the transition to an electronic license application process among RNs and LPNs will be well received. Already 96% of active licensees currently renew online and charge related fees to a credit card. Licensees and DHP have already benefited from the decade long online license renewal process.

As of Thursday, January 14th RN and LPN applicants in the Commonwealth can go online 24 hours a day, seven days a week to take advantage of the process. An online checklist will enable applicants to monitor the progress of their application including DHP's receipt of test scores, reference letters and school transcripts as they are received. This cost-effective measure will reduce the amount of time applicants spend monitoring the progress of their application and will help avoid the need for follow-up telephone calls.

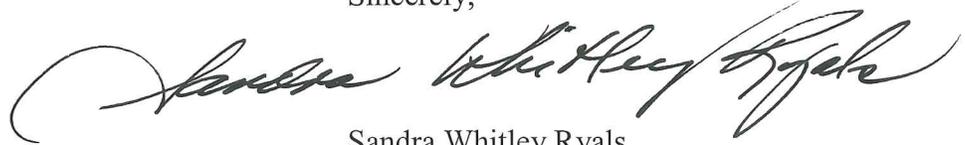
Step two of the new online application process will be phased in following anticipated policy and regulatory changes later this year. These changes will enable DHP's expanded use of technology to include electronic school transcripts, notarized documents, digital photographs and other materials still required in hard copy at this time.

Colleague
January 14, 2010
Page 2

DHP's new online application process will capture demographic information as well as the address, date of birth and other basic details. To further leverage this technology and better understand the characteristics and work behaviors of practitioners, DHP healthcare workforce surveys will now be part of the application process. By understanding the characteristics and preferences of the healthcare workforce leaders, educators and medical institutions will be able to keep a finger on the pulse of the supply and demand for healthcare services in Virginia.

The participation of new RN and LPN applicants in the Department of Health Professions' online licensure application program is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sandra Whitley Ryals". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the beginning.

Sandra Whitley Ryals