

Nursing Education Programs

Nursing education programs preparing students for licensure as registered and practical nurses and certification as nurse practitioners by the State Board of Nursing in the Commonwealth or another jurisdiction may resume as outlined below.

- **Nursing education programs may resume direct patient care clinical experience.** Clinical experience must follow the guidelines provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Nursing education programs should also consider the guidance provided by the [American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Considerations for COVID-19 Preparedness and](#) **Nursing education programs located in counties designated as yellow or green phases, as outlined in the [Governor's Process to Reopen Pennsylvania](#), may resume in-person instruction.** Such instruction shall employ social distancing measures, universal masking, and/or applicable DOH and CDC guidelines. During the yellow phase, class size is limited to 25 or fewer students for in-person instruction.
- **Nursing research located in counties designated as red, yellow, or green phases may also resume,** in accordance with CDC and DOH guidelines.
- All nursing education programs are expected to strictly adhere to the requirements of the [Guidance for Businesses Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to Ensure the Safety and Health of Employees and the Public](#) and the health and safety guidelines detailed in the Governor's phased-in reopening plan.

In all instances, nurse education programs must operate in the manner best designed to prevent or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of the communities in which they reside and serve. Programs are expected to employ remote or virtual methods of training and instruction whenever possible. Students must also wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in all patient encounters and can only participate if there is an adequate supply of PPE. Programs should strive to minimize opportunities for personal interaction as such interactions provide greater opportunities for the transmission of COVID-19.