



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BOARD OF NURSING

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Alaska State Board of Nursing

Date: May 11, 2020

Adopted by: The Alaska State Board of Nursing

Purpose: COVID-19 crisis impact on Alaskan Nurses both Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses.

History: On March 11, 2020 Governor Mike Dunleavy issued a Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency under AS 26.23.020(c) for COVID-19. Governor Dunleavy has issued subsequent health mandates limiting health professionals from performing services unless they are following the Health and Social Service (HSS) guidelines. Information and recommendations are ongoing, and it is anticipated that these may change regularly. All licensees are expected to stay informed and follow HSS mandates. <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/>

On April 10, 2020 Governor Dunleavy signed SB 241 into law.

Statement from the Board: The Board held a meeting on May 6-7, 2020. The Board recognized that COVID-19 restrictions have created the inability for some licensees to complete a nurse refresher course as an alternative method for continued competency or as a method for licensure reinstatement because of the regulation requiring a minimum required 60 clinical hours of direct patient care. South Dakota State University (SDSU) has researched and implemented providing online simulation for the required clinical experience for refresher course participants. A new curriculum is developed and is available May 4, 2020. This is a temporary offering until direct patient care opportunities are readily available again.

The Alaska BON RESOLVED to ACCEPT the South Dakota State University substitution of online clinical simulations for the direct patient care clinical hour requirements due to lack of opportunity to travel, restrictions on in-person gatherings, restrictions related to social distancing, and all other COVID-19 related restrictions.

Summary:

The Alaska State Board of Nursing per authority of SB241 Sec. 6 (b)(2). The Board accepts the modifications to the curriculum presented by SDSU and this refresher course meets the requirements of 12 AAC 44.317 Reinstatement of a Lapsed or Retired License Status and 12 AAC 44.640 Alternative Methods for the Continuing Competency Requirements.

The Alaska Board of Nurse authority per in SB 241 Sec. 6 (b)(2).