

**LARA/BPL Communication for Michigan
Higher Education Nursing School Programs**

Issued March 29, 2020

On March 10, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19. Since then, the Governor has issued several executive orders to mitigate the spread of the virus. Given the state of emergency, LARA, led by Director Orlene Hawks, is providing this communication to help ease the added stress that our nursing students and the nursing programs are experiencing and to ensure that student learning continues in a safe and productive manner. We appreciate the hard work of Michigan's institutions of higher education to prepare the medical professionals that the State of Michigan needs during the pandemic.

Allowing for 100% Clinical Experience through Virtual Simulation:

Based on recent communication from nursing education accreditation organizations, and in light of current circumstances, the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) will allow RN and PN programs to conduct up to 100% of clinical experience hours in each course using virtual simulation and/or other clinically related online activities. This allowance will remain in place during the current declared state of emergency and the remainder of 2020.