

Maryland Nursing Workforce Center: Statewide Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

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Background

The Maryland COVID-19 pandemic response shut down the access for nursing schools to clinical instruction in March of 2020.

As the extent and possible duration of the pandemic became clearer, it was determined that academic and hospital partners needed an avenue to determine how and when nursing students could safely return to the clinical practice settings.

Objectives

At the end of this poster presentation the learner will be able to:

- Describe the role of the MNWC in addressing solutions to issues during the COVID response.
- Identify 2 ongoing collaborative projects.

Approach

Working with the Maryland Organization of Nurse Leaders Nurse Residency Program, a statewide summit meeting was called in May 2020 to discuss the return of nursing students to clinical practice.

Methods

All schools of nursing and all hospital partners were invited to attend the statewide summit on May 4, 2020.

MBON presented on Governor's Executive Orders on graduate nurses and the guidelines for practice for new graduate nurses

Schools of Nursing raised questions on what would be required for students to return to clinical instruction

Hospitals outlined the requirements for PPE, training needs and capacity for nursing students.

Subgroups were formed to address the requirements for PPE and training needs of students and clinical instructors

Workgroups composed of school of nursing and hospital leaders met on a bi-weekly basis throughout May, June and July to develop consensus on what was required for schools of nursing to do to prepare students for return to clinical learning .

Workgroups developed memoranda of agreements on common items such as: training videos for donning and doffing PPE, COVID screening requirements (and later testing), notifications of contact and/or exposure to COVID positive individuals, respirator fit testing requirements

Summit meetings were scheduled in July and early August to review and update on plans for returning students to clinical settings.

Projects

1. Some hospitals were concerned about PPE availability and turned to the schools to provide N95 respirator masks for students. Schools were not able to secure PPE on the market because PPE and some were unable to provide fit testing for respirators. The MNWC convened a small work group to develop a solution for Train the Trainer instruction for SON's on respirator fit testing.

2. With early graduations and Graduate Nursing guidelines, a task force was developed to address the unique requirements of newly graduated nurses. This taskforce worked with the Nurse Residency Collaborative to develop transitions to clinical practice. (see other presentations at this summit for a more detailed report)

3. In discussions, it was recognized that onboarding nursing students and clinical instructors presented challenges. A statewide task force is currently working on onboarding recommendations.

Notes

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