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## **Guiding Principles: Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on nursing education programs, faculty members and students**

CARNA is aware of and monitoring the impact on nursing education programs, faculty members and students. As the situation rapidly evolves, CARNA is in continuous contact with all RN, NP and re-entry program faculty members to discuss contingency plans for their curriculum.

This unprecedented time requires agility, creativity and innovative options for faculty members and students. Both CARNA and faculty members are committed and confident that together we will arrive at a plan in the best interest and safety for the public, students and faculty.

Considerations for nursing education program contingency plans include:

- Student, patient and nursing faculty member **safety** is paramount. It is important to closely monitor and follow the Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health directions.
- Students are informed of the post-secondary institution's pandemic plans.
- Alternate and innovative learning strategies may be used to support clinical experiences and student learning to achieve CARNA entry-level competencies.
- Nursing education programs are responsible for documenting, tracking and reporting program modifications implemented during the pandemic to NEPAC.
- Program modifications to address these extenuating circumstances are **short term** for the duration of the pandemic only and **not precedent-setting**. They are **not** to become permanent changes to the program.
- In the event the pandemic continues **long term**, and students cannot achieve the entry-level competencies required for program completion, post-secondary institutions may need to delay student progression in, or graduation from, the nursing education program.
- The expectation is that students have met CARNA entry-level competencies for entry to practice as an RN or NP at the time of program completion. Faculty members evaluate students to ensure they have the knowledge, skills and judgement required to practise safely and ethically.
- Post-secondary institutions will continue to submit their confirmation of program completion list to CARNA. This list verifies that each named student has successfully completed all the requirements of the approved nursing education program. This requirement will not change.