

During this very unusual, stressful time, the CoARC is aware that many of its accredited educational programs will be unable to provide formal clinical education experiences for their students. However, in several states, because of the serious shortage of healthcare providers, students currently enrolled in Respiratory Care and other Allied Health programs are temporarily being allowed to provide, with pay, appropriate services in healthcare facilities in those states. The CoARC has determined that programs in these states can use this clinical exposure as an alternative means for their students to complete mandated clinical competencies. In order for this to occur, the program will need to provide students with a list of required competencies and a method for them to document which, and how many, of these they have performed and, when possible, confirmation that the competencies were performed in an acceptable manner.

The CoARC strongly suggests that the program should encourage all students who utilize this option to minimize their exposure to liability for malpractice. While it is likely that these states will endeavor to provide such protection, a temporary 'Respiratory Care' or 'health care professional' license might be useful in this regard.

In addition, as CoARC has mentioned in its two previous notifications (available at www.coarc.com) that it is allowing programs the flexibility to use whatever methods they deem appropriate to meet the educational requirements and competencies.

I hope this addresses your questions. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, don't hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

-Tom

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