



TO: District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Schools  
Public School Administrators  
Nonpublic School Administrators  
Charter School Administrators

From: Betty A. Rosa, Interim Commissioner

Date: August 28, 2020

Re: Updated Guidance on Clinical Hours Required for Secondary Nurse Aide Training, Home Health Aide Training, and Emergency Medical Technician Training Programs in Response to COVID-19

## Background

With the August 7, 2020 announcement by Governor Cuomo that schools are permitted to open in the fall, the Office of Career and Technical Education (CTE) has recently received an influx of questions from school districts and BOCES regarding their secondary Nurse Aide Training, Home Health Aide Training, and Emergency Medical Technician education programs. In order to address the possibility of limited clinical opportunities through school scheduling adjustments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of CTE has put forth the following guidance with respect to these programs for the 2020-2021 academic year.

## Recommendations for Approved CTE Programs in Secondary Schools

### Nurse Aide Training Programs

NYSED-approved Nurse Aide Training Programs require a minimum of 108 clinical hours. Due to COVID-19 school scheduling adjustments, NYSED will now require all nurse aide trainees to complete a minimum of 30 hands-on clinical hours in a long-term care or skilled nursing facility consistent with the requirements to be eligible to sit for the NYS Department of Health Nurse Aide examination per Sections 1819e and 1919e (1) and (2) of the Federal (OBRA, PL 100-203) and Section 415 of Title 10 of the New York Code, Rules and Regulations (10 NYCRR). The remaining 78 clinical hours required by NYSED for program operation and approval may be delivered using an in-person, remote, or hybrid model, based on individual districts/schools/BOCES re-opening plans, and may be comprised of experiences that meet the curricular program requirements through required skill

performance, project-based learning, and experiences which are all taught and supervised by the registered professional nurse educator in these specific circumstances. As with all nurse aide training programs, professional discretion must be used when attesting that students are safely applying learned concepts as demonstrated by a completer of a nurse aide training program. All student instructional hours must be properly documented.

### **Home Health Aide Training Programs**

NYSED-approved Home Health Aide Training Programs require a minimum of 30 clinical hours. Due to COVID-19 school scheduling adjustments and NYS Department of Health's revised guidelines, NYSED will now require all home health aide trainees to complete 16 supervised clinical hours (including the 8 hands-on clinical hours) in a skills laboratory, under the direct supervision of an approved nurse instructor consistent with the NYS Department of Health requirements to be eligible for completion per Part 484 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (42 CFR) and Section 700.2 of Title 10 of the New York Code, Rules and Regulations (10 NYCRR). The remaining 14 clinical hours required by

programs with the intent to complete their clinical hours and be eligible for the examination in the future. In an effort to provide high school seniors in the 2020-

