Pre-license Nursing Education Programs: Student COVID-19 Vaccination

The Board has received inquiries from prelicensure nursing education programs regarding requiring COVID-19 vaccination of students, or how to proceed when informed by a controlling agency, or a clinical site, for example, that students are subject to vaccination requirements in order to remain in the program or to participate in a clinical experience. It is expected that programs would examine their own policies and procedures, and consult, as they deem appropriate, with their own controlling agencies, counsel and/or other advisors, etc., in determining whether and under what circumstances to adopt vaccination policies related to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In its March 25, 2020, Communication to Program Administrators, the Board stated in part that it would “not penalize programs in the future based on your decisions to adapt your nursing education curriculum to address these unprecedented times. No law or administrative rule change is needed for the Board to do this.”

The state declared emergency ended June 18, 2021, however for the duration of the federal declaration of emergency, the Board will continue to recognize the evolving circumstances under which programs are operating and will similarly not penalize programs that find themselves adapting their program in response to these unprecedented times, including with respect to implementing vaccination policies as required by their unique circumstances.