



NEWS RELEASE

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Board of Registered Nursing Urges Nursing Students to Help During the COVID-19 Pandemic *Students will not violate the Nursing Practice Act*

SACRAMENTO – As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to grow and California prepares for a medical surge, the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) wants nursing students to know they can help. During this public health crisis [Business and Professions Code section 2727\(d\)](#) provides that nursing services may be provided by unlicensed persons during an epidemic, which would include nursing students, without violating the Nursing Practice Act.

“The Board of Registered Nursing advises healthcare providers and the public that nursing students can be deployed to assist in healthcare facilities today” said BRN Acting Executive Officer Loretta Melby, RN, MSN. “These students will not be violating the Nursing Practice Act by providing services without a license.”

To assist hospitals, clinics, and other providers, as well as students, BRN has developed a schematic that correlates a currently enrolled prelicensure nursing student’s academic progression with a similar role that is known throughout the healthcare community. For example, students who have taken the Fundamentals of Nursing course can provide nursing assistant functions, including assisting with direct patient care under the supervision of an RN or other medical professionals and can prepare exam rooms and treatment rooms for patients amongst other duties. The BRN encourages students to become familiar with the schematic and to bring their skills competency checklist from their board approved nursing school with them when providing care.

The full schematic can be found on the BRN website. BRN encourages students to review the schematic and sign up to be part of the fight at healthcorps.ca.gov.

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