From: Williams, Edwina <edwina.williams@dss.virginia.gov> Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 2:01 PM Subject: Nurse Aide Education Program Waiver Update To: <DSS_LICENSING@listserv.cov.virginia.gov>

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE:	August 13, 2020
то:	Licensed Assisted Living Facilities
FROM:	Tara Ragland, Director, Division of Licensing Programs
RE:	Nurse Aide Education Program Waiver Update

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, the focus of the Board of Nursing has been on identifying regulatory barriers to increasing the healthcare workforce across Virginia, without jeopardizing safe and competent patient care. With long-term care facilities and the workforce being impacted by the pandemic for six months, the need for additional flexibility in nurse aide education program regulations has been identified. Therefore, <u>18VAC90-26-20(B)(1)(e)</u> has been suspended until December 31, 2020. The suspension of this regulation enables programs to complete the 40-hour direct client care training of enrolled students in alternate clinical sites to include licensed hospitals, hospice facilities, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, and dementia care units. Regulations do not provide for completion of the 40 hours in the laboratory setting. Waivers issued March 19, 2020 of 18VAC90-26-30 (C & D) remain in effect. The waiver in its entirety can be found on the <u>Board of Nursing website</u>.