

Memorandum

To: Institutions and Students/Learners in Nova Scotia Health Authority

From: Dr. Gail Tomblin Murphy, VP Research, Innovation and Discovery, NSHA;
Steve Ashton, VP People and Organizational Development, IWK

Date: March 18, 2020

Subject: **Students/Learners - Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak**

The IWK and NSHA have been working closely with our institutions and key stakeholders to align our decision making with the most recent guidance to reduce the risk of the novel coronavirus, and we are committed to keeping our staff, physicians, learners and the public informed as the situation develops.

As of 5PM March 18th, all learner placements at IWK and NSHA are immediately postponed until further notice, inclusive of programming at the Registered Nurses Professional Development Centre (RNPDC), and the QEII Simulation Program (except specific to COVID-19). Only specific licenced health care providers (e.g. medical residents, nurse practitioners) who are also on clinical placements will remain in service.

At the NSHA and IWK we have a learner-centric mandate to ensure our students receive health education of the highest quality, including meaningful placements that prepare them for their careers. That said, our highest priority is the health and safety of our community. Given the current demands of the healthcare system and the safety and well-being of learners, staff, patients and families, we feel this is the most prudent decision at this time.

Students who are in placements or about to begin their placements can contact their program and placement coordinator for more information. Thank you for your understanding as we do our part to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have questions related to this memo, please contact:

- Sheri Roach, Manager Student/Learner Placement Service, NSHA at SheriK.Roach@nshealth.ca.
- Mary Thibeault, Manager, Learning, Learning and Development, IWK at Mary.Thibeault@iwk.nshealth.ca
- Treena Campbell, Manager, RNPDC at treena.campbell@nshealth.ca

Information for public, faculty and learners specific to NSHA is available online:

<http://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirus>. As well, the Nova Scotia government has general information about COVID-19 available on this website: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>. We encourage your faculty and students to keep current through this online information, which is continuously being updated.