



April 2, 2020

State of Maryland

**Maryland
Institute for
Emergency Medical
Services Systems**

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Dear Nursing Student:

Thank you for taking just a few moments to read this message. It relates to your special knowledge and skills in this unprecedented time for our society and, certainly, our health care system.

In the coming weeks and months our health care system in Maryland expects to be tested like never before. The COVID-19 pandemic will test our capacity to deliver high quality, compassionate care to those who need it, whether for this virus or other problems we encounter routinely. As health systems, hospitals, and the Department of Health expand their capacities to care for people who will come to them for help, they are seeking students like you.

Although you are still a student, you have acquired knowledge and skills that make you invaluable. You can make important contributions to a health care team.

The State of Maryland, in consultation with your school's leaders, and the directors of all the nursing programs in the state, has developed a credentialing process to help identify qualified and interested nursing students. The on-line procedure is quick and easy for you to complete. When you are done, it will provide you with a credential as "Clinical Extern / NURS," which will be recognizable to potential employers and others in the health care system. Your profile information will be made available to a statewide agency coordinating clinical staffing resources and to hospitals seeking to hire nursing students to assist during the pandemic.

What You Can Do:

- Go to www.MIEMSS.org.
- Click on the link to the licensure system.
- Create an account (takes only a minute).
- Starting April 2, use your account log-in to apply to be a "Clinical Extern / NURS".
- Follow the instructions to complete a FERPA Student Information Release (so MIEMSS can validate your student status with your school).

What Will Happen Next:

- MIEMSS will validate your status with your school.
- After your information is reviewed, you will receive a certificate.
- Your information will be shared with potential employers (Maryland Department of Health and Maryland hospitals).

And then...

- You may hear from potential employers for you to consider.
- You are under absolutely no obligation, whatsoever; you decide what's right for you.
- In all cases, if you choose to accept a position, you should expect to be part of a team that is supervised by a licensed nurse, where you have access to any needed equipment, and where the expectations of you are commensurate with your level of education and experience.

Clinical Extern / NURS's will be categorized in three levels to help distinguish clinical experiences and relevant skills. The directors of all Maryland's nursing schools have decided what those levels are. There will be other clinical externs, including, for example, medical students and respiratory therapy students. Together, you represent an important part of the promise that our health care system will rise to the challenges in the weeks and months ahead.

I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity. Again, becoming a Clinical Extern does not obligate you in any way. It merely sets the stage for you to consider options to help during this crisis, as those options are presented to you.

If you have questions, please contact either Barb Goff bgoff@miemss.org or Terrell Buckson tbuckson@miemss.org. If they can't answer your question, they'll find someone who can!

In closing, thank you for your indulgence and consideration. Congratulations on choosing a career path that exemplifies the very best in humanity; empathy, compassion, and healing care with exceptional knowledge and skill.

With greatest respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Theodore R. Delbridge', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH, FACEP