



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2021.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).


PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico
Program Title: Nursing Students Act Locally to Combat Global Pandemic
Program Category: Health and Human Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis
Title: Public Relations Specialist
Department: Public Relations
Telephone: 804-501-4933 Website: www.henrico.us
Email: dav127@henrico.us

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton
Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration
Signature: 

Program Overview

Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) communicates a divisionwide commitment to every student through a vision of inclusiveness: “The right to achieve. The support to succeed.” The school division also embraces four critical cornerstones: student safety and wellness, academic growth, equity and opportunity and relationships. As a part of HCPS, the practical nursing program’s mission is to prepare nurses to provide safe, effective and culturally competent nursing care throughout people’s lives. Clinical sites and experiences are imperative for supporting this mission.

Since 1966, St. Mary’s Hospital and HCPS have cosponsored a school of practical nursing. Henrico County-St. Mary’s Hospital School of Practical Nursing has collaborated with Bon Secours Mercy Health System for many years. In the fall of 2020, responding to an unprecedented global health crisis, the school of practical nursing and the health system partnered in the rollout and administration of COVID-19 vaccines to health care workers at Bon Secours Mercy Health Systems in the Richmond and surrounding areas. Through this collaboration, our nursing students were able to assist with administering more than 10,000 vaccines to the Richmond area health-care community. The students gained valuable experience and provided a tremendous impact to our community.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

As we look at trends in nursing and nursing curriculum, it is a must that we increase our students’ knowledge in public health and community nursing. It is expected that public health and community nursing will grow 18% by 2022.

In the spring of 2020, the world was hit with the COVID-19 pandemic. This affected health care programs across the nation. Many clinical sites closed to students, creating an issue in completing required clinical rotations. Our program had to think of creative opportunities to allow our students to get the clinical time required for board certification. When the vaccine became available, a collaboration was created, enabling our nursing students to assist in the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The program described in “Nursing Students Act Locally to Combat a Global Pandemic” filled a need in our local health care system to schedule and roll out a mass vaccination plan for our health care community. Health-care workers were on the frontline, working to fight against this virus for our community. They needed to be safe and effective in order to care for those suffering from COVID-19. Our collaboration with Bon Secours Mercy has helped provide vaccines to those in the health care community, education to underserved communities, as well as supporting the preparation of students in HCPS’ practical nursing program.

How Program Was Carried Out

The mission of Henrico County-St. Mary’s Hospital School of Practical Nursing is to “provide a quality program of nursing education designed and committed to preparing practical nurses to provide safe, effective and culturally competent nursing care to individuals across the life span in a variety of health care settings of the 21st Century.” This mission, coupled with HCPS’ mission to “actively engage students in diverse learning experiences that inspire and empower them to become contributing citizens.” Bon Secours St. Mary’s Hospital’s mission — to help those in need — has brought collaborative opportunities for growth and support of the local community.

Bon Secours Mercy initiated a discussion with the school of nursing to assist in their efforts to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine to the greater Richmond area Bon Secours Mercy health care staff. According to the Virginia Department of Health, more than 20,500 cases of COVID-19 have been detected in health care workers in the commonwealth of Virginia. Doctors, nurses, paramedics, and support staff have taken on such enormous risk during this global pandemic, the largest global health crisis since the Spanish flu in 1918.

Students were assigned to St. Mary's Hospital, St. Francis Hospital and Bon Secours Memorial Hospital for mass vaccination administration. Students who were participating in clinical rotations for medical surgical nursing and leadership and management were chosen to participate. Along with the staff at Bon Secours, our students and faculty have been an integral part of rolling out more than 10,000 vaccines to the Bon Secours health care community. These positions provided an invaluable clinical experience to our students.

Students were assigned to work 7 a.m.-5 p.m., and a schedule of dates is sent out each month. Students completed orientation before the rollout of the vaccine clinic. Students were assigned to different job positions, including registrar, vaccination administration, monitoring zone (to monitor for adverse reactions), data entry and scheduling. This partnership helped our students with clinical hours while giving Bon Secours the help it needed to vaccinate the health-care team members. They are currently still working at Bon Secours COVID-19 vaccine clinics and are scheduled to participate weekly in the clinics until their March 23 graduation. We are also working with Bon Secours medical practices to help roll out community vaccination efforts.

The year 2020 has brought many challenges for our program, but it has also presented unique opportunities for our students to make a difference in our community. Our students also volunteer to assist in community outreach days to promote wellness and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The collaboration with Bon Secours Mercy has provided our nursing students an opportunity to expand their knowledge in community nursing during a global pandemic. This affiliation has provided support to Bon Secours Mercy while preparing practical nurses to provide safe, effective and culturally competent nursing care to individuals in our community.

Financing and Staffing

An affiliation agreement exists between HCPS and Bon Secours Mercy Health Care System. There were no specific costs for this collaboration. Clinical time was given to our students in Nursing Care of the Family, Nursing Care of the Adult II and Leadership and Management courses.

Program Results

Our students have partnered with Bon Secours health-care staff to administer over 10,000 vaccines to our Richmond area Bon Secours Mercy employees, while taking part in a global effort. In addition, our nursing students have been able to participate in 128 hours of clinical time in the area of community nursing. Our students graduate in March and many have expressed an interest in community nursing after the experience they had working the COVID-19 clinics. This has been a huge success for both Bon Secours Mercy, and supports the nursing program in its effort to expand and have a meaningful opportunity to provide community-based nursing.

Brief Summary

In the fall of 2020, when COVID-19 vaccines first became available to healthcare workers, a need emerged in the community for assistance in administering these vaccines as quickly as possible. At the same time, the pandemic had resulted in most clinical sites being closed to students enrolled in HCPS' nursing program. This created an issue in completing required clinical rotations. Our program had to think of creative opportunities to allow our students to get the clinical time required for board certification. When the vaccine became available, a collaborative project between BonSecours Mercy and the practical nursing program was created, enabling our nursing students to assist in the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations.

The school of practical nursing and the health system partnered in the rollout and administration of more than 10,000 COVID-19 vaccines to health care workers in Richmond and surrounding areas. Students who were participating in clinical rotations for medical surgical nursing and leadership and management were chosen to participate. The students were assigned to different job positions, including registrar, vaccination administration, monitoring zone (to monitor for adverse reactions), data entry and scheduling, gaining invaluable experience and resulting in a tremendous positive impact to our community.

The partnership has continued beyond this initial health care worker vaccine administration. We are also working with Bon Secours medical practices to help staff community vaccination efforts. Our students also volunteer to assist in community outreach days to promote wellness and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The collaboration with Bon Secours Mercy has given our nursing students an opportunity to expand their knowledge in community nursing during a global pandemic. They have gained

invaluable experience that goes beyond typical clinical rotation experiences and played an important role in advancing the health and safety of our community.

Nursing Students Act Locally to Combat a Global Pandemic Supplemental Material

