



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health • Public Health Nursing & Professional Development
1916 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1916
Tel 919-707-5130 • Fax 919-870-4833

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Leah Devlin, DDS, MPH
State Health Director

Memo

From: Joy F. Reed, EdD, RN, Head
Public Health Nursing and Professional Development

Hazel Browning Moore, MSN, RN
Continuing Education Specialist

Subject: Changes to required course for non-baccalaureate prepared Registered Nurses

Date: July 1, 2008

The Introduction to Principles and Practices of Public Health and Public Health Nursing course is required under NC Administrative Code during the first year of employment in a local health department for all registered nurses who do not have a baccalaureate degree. This is sent to inform you that the course has been significantly revised and the new course will be implemented for the first time in the fall 2008.

The course will now be called simply "Introduction to Public Health Nursing". The most significant changes are:

- No more videoconference sessions.
- Two courses will be required as prerequisites. Both can be completed online and each awards a certificate upon completion. These prerequisites are "Introduction to Public Health in North Carolina" which can be accessed at <http://www.sph.unc.edu/oce/> and "E is for Epi" which can be accessed at <http://nccphp.sph.unc.edu/trainingpackages/index.htm>. Both of the prerequisites are free of charge.
- Course participants will attend a 2½ day land-based training session in a central location. The fall course is planned for October 6-8 at the Greensboro Clarion Hotel. *Before being admitted to the land-based course, participants will be required to show documentation of completion of the two prerequisites.*

A new textbook has been adopted for Introduction to Public Health Nursing, the seventh edition of Stanhope and Lancaster's *Public Health Nursing: Population-Centered Health Care in the Community*. One copy of this text will be provided to each county in the next few weeks.

This information will be provided to all who enroll in the course but we are sending this advance notice to you so that you can help your employees who need to attend the course understand the new requirements. Note that we are strongly encouraging early registration. In the past, we have had participants register up to just a few days before the course start date. Be aware that we expect that the prerequisites will require approximately 8 hours to complete so early registration should allow participants ample time to prepare. Participants *must bring* documentation of completion of these prerequisites when they check in for the land-based part of the course. Without the documentation, they will not be allowed to participate in the class.

If you need clarification or additional information, please feel free to call Hazel Moore at (252) 341-6504.



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