IDFPR
Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Division of Professional Regulation

JB PRITZKER Governor	**MARIO TRETO, JR.** Acting Secretary	**CECILIA ABUNDIS** Director

**Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Pre-licensure School of Nursing
SARS-2 COVID-19 2022 Survey Report**

Background: Completion of the IDFPR Board of Nursing (BON) annual mandatory pre-licensure report is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined in the Illinois Nurse Practice Act Rules, Section 1300.230 (LPN) / 1300.340 (RN) Approval of Programs. Failure to complete the annual report could result in the withdrawal of Board of Nursing approval of the pre-licensure nursing education program by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) Board of Nursing (BON). This annual report is routinely distributed early Fall semester. In 2022, most education programs completed the survey and responded by the end of October; all responses were received by end of November 2022.

Illinois Pre-licensure Nursing Education Programs: https://www.idfpr.com/Forms/DPR/NurseSchools.pdf
There are 132 pre-licensure nursing education programs in Illinois. Thirty-four (35) LPN programs, eleven (11) Ladder and Option Approved and Designated programs (an RN approved only program with an LPN "option-out" program; these schools have no corresponding "stand-alone" LPN program); one (1) hospital program; forty-four (44) Associate Degree RN programs in community colleges; thirty-four (34) Baccalaureate degree programs, which includes the BSN-ACCL programs, but the seven (7) programs that have both a BSN-RN and an MSN-RN program are reported separately as the BSN-RN and Master's Entry Level programs; seven (7) Master's Entry Level programs. In general, schools completed one survey for all programs; for example, at a community college with both an RN education program and an LPN education program, the school submitted one survey response.

Definitions of abbreviations:
- ADN-RN: associate degree in nursing, at a 2-year community college, eligible for RN licensure exam at the end of the program.
- BSN-RN: baccalaureate degree in nursing at a 4-year college or university, eligible for RN licensure exam at the end of the program.
- MSN entry level: master-of-science degree in nursing at a 4-year college or university, eligible for RN licensure exam at the end of the program.
- ADN-LPN: 1 year of education at a community college, eligible for LPN licensure exam at the end of the program.
- LPN PBVS: private vocational business school (PVBS) with LPN nursing education programs; 2 of the schools included in this category are independent LPN education programs that are not PBVS.
- LPN: licensed practical nurse.
- RN: registered professional nurse.

Survey: the 2022 Illinois Nursing Workforce Center COVID-19 pandemic impact survey was included as a final short survey addition to the Board of Nursing (BON) annual pre-licensure nursing education program mandatory survey report. The BON annual pre-licensure nursing education evaluation report includes information regarding curriculum, faculty and students and other information deemed appropriate by the Board of Nursing, Division of Professional Regulation. The Board of Nursing annual pre-licensure nursing education program report includes the minimum data set recommended by the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers

https://nursingworkforcecenters.org/dataset/ The survey also uses Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS) language and definitions, which is used by other State agencies. A SARS-2 COVID-19 survey was included as a final one-page addition with both the 2020 and 2021 Illinois Board of Nursing annual pre-licensure nursing education program surveys. In 2022 there was a slight expansion of the question and answer options from the previous surveys. Instructions included that results would only be reported in the aggregate.

Results Reporting: to facilitate viewing responses, education programs were combined into categories. The LPN education programs were divided into two categories: ADN-LPN, the LPN programs located in community colleges that reported separately from the ADN-RN program; and LPN-PBVS, the LPN programs in private business vocational schools and the two LPN NFP schools. The community college associate degree ADN-RN and associate degree ladder programs are included together in the ADN-RN category. The one hospital school of nursing program responses were included with the ADN-RN program responses. The baccalaureate RN and master's entry level-RN program responses were listed separately. Not all questions were answered, some questions with more than one option – sometimes both or multiple responses were chosen as answers. On average, there were approximately 110 responses per question.
Comments: comments are included with the question, for example, how often students are required by clinical sites to be tested. Other comments were not included in this report.

Comparisons to previous years: the majority of questions were the same as previous surveys. One new question was added, and options to a few other questions were expanded.

- *Do you believe that the current mental health support services are adequate for faculty? For students?* This question was added by the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Board during the discussion regarding whether the education program had increased these services in the previous year. It was approximately even (58 yes, 53 no) that education programs increased mental health services for faculty. More programs indicated that mental health services were increased for students (78 yes/33 no) over the past year. The majority of faculty (80 yes) indicated that the services available for both faculty and students are adequate.
- *What is the access to clinical sites*? In 2022, a majority (68 programs) indicate that their access to clinical sites was not reduced over the previous year. In 2021, it was approximately even the number of programs that reported less access to clinical sites (53), or access to clinical sites was the same as previous year (47). In 2020 more education programs (84) reported that they had less access than pre COVID-19 pandemic to clinical sites.
- *Is there a decrease number of students allowed per clinical site*? In 2022, a majority (62 programs) now indicate that there is not a decrease in the number of students allowed per clinical site. In 2021, it was approximately even, the number of programs that reported a decreased number of students allowed per clinical site (51) to those that report the same number allowed as in 2020 (48). In 2020: 77 programs reported a decreased number of students were allowed per clinical site.
- *How are classes taught*? The programs could choose more than one option. In 2022, 109 programs report teaching in person, 57 programs taught by remote/virtual, 79 programs reported simulation/in-person and 40 programs reported simulation-virtual. In 2021, 95 programs report teaching in person, 53 programs taught by remote/virtual, 62 programs reported simulation/in-person and 23 programs reported simulation-virtual. In 2020: 78 programs reported teaching in-person, 90 programs used remote/virtual education and 75 programs used simulation. The option of simulation-virtual was a new option for this question in 2022.
- *Is your program required to provide PPE for each student to attend the clinical*? In 2022: it is less than last year, approximately a third of the education programs indicate they are required to provide student PPE (27), and slightly more indicate they are not required to provide student PPE (37). Approximately half respondents indicate that provision of PPE for students varies by site (47). Similar to responses in

2021, a limited number of programs were required to provide student PPE (20), were not required to provide student PPE (38) and provision of PPE for students varies by site (44). In 2020, the majority of programs (50) responded that "it varies, some, not others", required the program to provide PPE for students; the remainder of the programs said either yes (25), or no (20) to providing PPE for students.

Illinois Nursing Workforce Center SARS-2 COVID-19 Survey: the questions were included as the final page to the IDFPR Board of Nursing 2022 annual mandatory Illinois pre-licensure nursing education program survey. The page was identified as originating from the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center, and included the following instructions at the top of the page prior to the questions:

> We are requesting approximately 5 minutes of your time**.** The purpose of this survey is to learn how pre-licensure education has adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic. All data will be reported in the aggregate, individual responses will remain anonymous and confidential. The information will be used in determining nursing workforce projections and needs in Illinois.

Each survey began with the nursing school program identification. Below are the responses to the survey questions; questions are clumped together based on similarity of topic.

Brief Summary Overview of Responses: the majority of pre-licensure nursing education programs (95) are required to provide proof of completion of the COVID-19 vaccination series; six (6) programs are not required to provide proof of vaccination. The majority of programs, sixty-five (65) are required to provide proof of COVID testing prior to the student attending clinical; forty-seven (47) are not required. How often the COVID-19 testing is required, for most programs, the clinical sites require weekly testing.

Since the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the nursing education programs have hired additional adjunct faculty (58), but this year the number of adjunct faculty is less than it was in 2021, when an overwhelming majority of programs had hired additional adjunct faculty (95). Similar with clinical preceptors, less were hired in 2022 (27) than in 2021 (48). A new question response option asked if there were more simulation classes, a majority (69) said yes, and approximately half (55) indicated that there was less student-patient time. Regarding simulation equipment and programs, there was in increase purchase of both. Simulation equipment 2022/2021 81/66 and especially simulation programs 2022/2021 77/30. The use of simulation equipment and programs is in addition to in-person (109) teaching of students by nursing faculty.

The number of nursing education programs that have experienced a decrease in the number of applicants in 2022 is slightly more than in 2021, with sixty-five (65) yes and forty-five (45) no. So programs continue to see a decrease in the number of applicants since 2020. Regarding the enrollment of students, slightly more have seen a decrease in the numbers enrolled, sixt- two (62) yes, and forty-five (40) no. So, though there were slightly less total applicants, enrollment remain essentially unchanged from 2021.

Has your program seen an increase in the number of faculty "early" retirement, thirty-three (33) responded yes and seventy-eight responded (78) no. The overwhelming majority have not seen an increase in the number of early retirements from nursing faculty. Results to this question are similar to last year.

Below is a grid of the responses to the 2022 questions about SARS-2 COVID-19 and the Illinois pre-licensure nursing education programs.

		Has your program experienced a reduction in access to the usual number of clinical sites for FY22?					
School type		MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes		4	13	16	5	6	44
No		3	21	29	6	9	68

		Has your program experienced a reduction in the number of students allowed at the clinical sites for FY22 semester compared to FY21?					
School type		MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes		4	14	21	5	5	49
No		3	20	23	6	10	62

		For FY22, is your program required to provide PPE for each student in order for the student to attend the clinical site?					
School type		MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes		2	7	11	3	4	27
No		5	10	13	3	6	37
Varies by site		0	14	23	5	5	47

		For FY22, is your program required to provide proof of completion of COVID-19 vaccination series?					
School type		MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes		7	34	41	10	3	95
No		0	0	3	1	2	6
Varies by site		0	0	0	0	0	0

		For FY22, is your program required to provide COVID-19 testing prior to the student attending clinical?					
School type		MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes		1	12	31	10	11	65
No		6	22	14	1	4	47
Varies by site		0	0	0	0	0	0

		If your program is required by clinical sites to provide a negative COVID-19 test prior to the student attending clinical, how often is this testing required?	
School type	Weekly	NA	Comments
MSN-RN	3	2	Weekly; weekly for students with approved exemption
BSN-RN	17	2	Weekly; weekly for students with approved exemption; if symptomatic
ADN-RN	24	2	State mandate weekly testing; 1-2 days/week; varies
ADN-LPN	9	2	Weekly
LPN-PBVS	8	2	Weekly, twice weekly, initial clinical, varies

		How are classes being taught FY22 (may choose more than one option)?					
School type		MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
In person		7	34	45	11	12	109
Remote/Virtual		6	20	18	6	7	57
Simulation-in person		6	28	31	7	7	79
Simulation-virtual		3	13	14	3	7	40

		Was the campus closed, because of the COVID-19 pandemic this past FY22 year?					
School type		MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes		0	3	4	0	1	8
No		7	31	41	11	14	104

Q#12 Since the initial stages of COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020, has your program:						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Hired add. adjunct Faculty	3	19	19	6	11	58
Hired add. clinical preceptors	2	10	8	2	5	27
Purchased additional Simulation equipment	5	22	35	9	10	81
Purchased additional Simulation programs	3	21	33	9	11	77
Used more simulation classes	5	18	29	7	10	69
Experienced less in-person student/patient clinicals	4	16	23	5	7	55

Has your program provided additional mental health services supporting coping with COVID-19 stresses for faculty?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes	5	23	24	6	1	59
No	2	10	21	5	14	52

Has your program provided additional mental health services supporting coping with COVID-19 stresses for students?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes	6	27	34	9	2	78
No	1	6	10	2	13	32

Do you believe the current mental health support services are adequate?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Faculty	4	25	32	8	11	80
Student	5	22	34	9	11	81

Does your University or parent organization require proof of vaccination for:						
School type	Students Yes	Students No	Employee Yes	Employee No	Subcontract Yes	Subcontract No or NA or Unk
MSN-RN	7	0	7	0	5	2
BSN-RN	27	7	25	6	13	13
ADN-RN	25	20	25	22	13	26
ADN-LPN	7	4	6	5	4	7
LPN-PBVS	7	8	8	7	5	10

Is the number of applicants of the Fall 2022 student cohort less than it was with the Fall 2021 student cohort?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes	3	21	26	8	7	65
No	4	12	18	3	8	45

		Has enrollment of students declined for Fall 2022 semester?					
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes	3	22	23	7	7	62
No	4	12	12	4	8	40

		Has your program experienced more early retirements than anticipated?					
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	**Summary total**
Yes	6	9	12	3	3	33
No	1	24	33	8	12	78

Summary: The SARS-2 COVID-19 survey questions were included at the end of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) Board of Nursing (BON) annual mandatory pre-licensure nursing education program survey. Though there are are 132 pre-licensure nursing education programs in Illinois, there are approximately 100-110 responses to each question. If, for example, there was both an LPN and an RN tract in the nursing education programs, most program only provided one response. The new nursing education programs that had not yet enrolled students did not respond to the questions. The Illinois pre-licensure nursing education programs have successfully worked to provide education to nursing students.

Since 2020, the overwhelming number of nursing education programs have hired additional faculty, adjunct faculty and preceptors and have purchased additional simulation equipment and simulation programs/scenarios. In 2022, Approximately half the education programs indicated there were less applications that in the previous year, and approximately the same number of programs indicated that the student enrollment was also decreased. The survey also did not ask if the program budget was increased even though the number of staff and additional clinical simulation resources were purchased.

The overwhelming majority (109) of pre-licensure nursing education programs continue in person, which could be a reflection of the fact that pre-licensure students are in clinicals with patients or simulation patients. The majority (95) of the programs indicate that the clinical sites require proof that the pre-licensure nursing education student is vaccinated prior to beginning clinical. If the student has an exemption, the majority of programs indicate that the clinical sites (60) require weekly COVID-19 testing. Different from 2021 study report, the majority (62) of nursing education programs indicate that clinical sites allow similar number of students per site as were allowed in 2021.

The Illinois pre-licensure nursing education programs have successfully worked to provide education to nursing students. In 2021, the programs graduated approximately the same number of students as in previous years. In 2021 the Illinois state RN pass rate was 82%, the same as national standard; a total of 7,298 RNs, similar to previous years. In 2021, the Illinois state LPN pass rate was 83%, which is above the 80% national standard pass rate for LPNs; a total of 1,272 LPNs, similar to previous years.
https://nursing.illinois.gov/PDF/IlApNursingEdProgPassRates.PDF

The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center, formerly the Illinois Center for Nursing, was created in 2007. The Workforce Center's mission is to advocate and ensure for the appropriate nursing resources necessary to meet the healthcare needs of the citizens of Illinois. The Nursing Workforce Center works with state agencies, nurses' associations, nursing education programs, employers and state and national foundations to focus efforts on the nursing workforce. As part of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), it is

the only health policy board within this state regulatory agency. The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center website has links to Illinois graduate and undergraduate nursing education programs, license renewal resources such as CE FAQ sheets, as well as data and reports from IDFPR licensure database and the past biennial voluntary on-line LPN, RN, APRN and FPA-APRN license renewal surveys https://nursing.illinois.gov/

Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) COVID-19 Survey Questions
Included with annual mandatory pre-licensure nursing education survey August 2022

We are requesting approximately 5 minutes of your time**.** The purpose of this survey is to learn how pre-licensure education has adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic. All data will be reported in the aggregate, individual responses will remain anonymous and confidential. The information will be used in determining nursing workforce projections and needs in Illinois.

1. Provide facility name and city location. If the school has multiple campuses, please include the city where each campus is located.
2. Identify/highlight the type of pre-licensure nursing education program:
   a. Master's entry level program, RN
   b. Baccalaureate degree program, RN
   c. Hospital diploma program, RN
   d. Associate degree program, RN
   e. Practical nursing degree program, community college, LPN
   f. Practical nursing degree program, independent institution, LPN
3. Is the number of applicants of the Fall 2022 student cohort less than it was in Fall 2021?
   __Yes   __No
4. Has the enrollment of students declined for the Fall 2022 semester? __Yes   __No
5. Was the campus closed, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in FY22? __Yes   __No
   a. If this program has more than one campus, did all campuses close? __Yes __No
6. When in FY22 did your school's campus(es) reopen to a partial or full complement of students?
   a. January   b. February   c. March
   d. April   e. May   f. June
   g. July   h. August   i. September
   h. Other: _____
7. For FY22, has your program experienced a reduction in access to the number of clinical sites compared to FY21? __Yes   __No
8. For FY22, has your program experienced a reduction in the number of students allowed at clinical sites compared FY21? __Yes __No
9. For FY22, is your program required to provide:
   a. PPE for each student in order for the student to attend the clinical site __Yes   __No
      ___some sites, but not others, require student provide PPE
   b. Proof of completion of COVID-19 vaccination series   ___Yes   ___No
   c. COVID-19 testing prior to the student attending clinical ___Yes   ___No
   d. If your program is required by clinical sites to provide a negative COVID-19 test prior to the student attending clinical, how often is this testing required? _____
10. For FY22, how are classes being taught – please highlight all options that are being used:
    a. In person
    b. Remote/virtual
    c. Simulation – in person
    d. Simulation - virtual
11. Since the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020, has your program:
    a. Hired additional adjunct faculty   ___Yes   ___No
    b. Hired additional clinical preceptors   ___Yes   ___No
    c. Purchased additional simulation equipment   ___Yes   ___No

    d.   Purchased additional simulation programs   ___Yes   ___No

    e.   Other: _____

12. Does your University or parent organization require proof of vaccination for
    a.   Students   ___Yes   ___No
    b.   Employees   ___Yes   ___No
    c.   Sub-contracted employees   ___Yes   ___No

13. Has your program experienced more early retirements than anticipated?   __Yes   __No

14. Has your program provided additional mental health services supporting coping with COVID-19 stresses?
For faculty __Yes   ___No
    For students? __Yes   __No

15. Do you believe that the mental health support services are adequate?
    For faculty __Yes   ___No
    For students? __Yes   __No

Thank you.