



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Guidelines for Absence from Clinical Placement due to adverse weather conditions

Supernumerary students

Athlone Institute of Technology
HSE Dublin Mid Leinster
HSE Dublin Midlands Hospital
Group (Tullamore & Portlaoise),
Ireland East Hospital Group
(Mullingar) and Community
Healthcare Organisations Area 8,
Longford Westmeath/ Laois Offaly
Mental Health Services

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Severe Weather Guidance is to guide students and AIT/HSE partners in responding to anticipated or actual effects that a Severe Weather event may have on Clinical Placement attendance for nursing students.

The key responsibilities for AIT/HSE partners are to ensure the necessary processes and procedures are in place so that nursing students are prepared in so far as possible for the effects of a Severe Weather event and processes are in place to ensure all nursing students, AIT and HSE partners are familiar with the processes and procedures.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF AIT/HSE PERSONNEL

1.1 Increase student awareness of hazards associated with Severe Weather- AIT/HSE

1.2 Identify problems which can prevent or interfere with the ability of nursing students to attend clinical placement- AIT/HSE

2. STUDENT ARE ADVISED TO BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF WEATHER AS DESCRIBED BY MET ÉIREANN

(All information in this section is taken from Met Éireann website. Please refer to:

<https://www.met.ie/nationalwarnings/warnings-explained.asp>)

STATUS YELLOW - Weather Alert - Be Aware

The concept behind YELLOW level weather alerts is to notify those who are at risk because of their location and/or activity, and to allow them to take preventative action. It is implicit that YELLOW level weather alerts are for weather conditions that do not pose an immediate threat to the general population, but only to those exposed to risk by nature of their location and/or activity.

STATUS ORANGE - Weather Warning - Be Prepared

This category of ORANGE level weather warnings is for weather conditions which have the capacity to impact significantly on people in the affected areas. The issue of an Orange level weather warning implies that all recipients in the affected areas should prepare themselves in an appropriate way for the anticipated conditions.

STATUS RED - Severe Weather Warning - Take Action

The issue of RED level severe weather warnings should be a comparatively rare event and implies that recipients take action to protect themselves and/or their properties; this could be by moving their families out of the danger zone temporarily; by staying indoors; or by other specific actions aimed at mitigating the effects of the weather conditions.

3. ADVICE TO NURSING STUDENTS REGARDING WEATHER ALERTS

3.1 **STATUS YELLOW** - Weather Alert - Be Aware

Advice to Students Students make their own informed decision based on localised weather reports, taking health and safety into account. All students must complete 80% attendance on clinical placement and 100% on specialist placements in order to have their competence workbooks assessments completed. Students will be required to meet the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) Standards and Requirements for clinical placement, therefore time missed from clinical placement may need to be addressed.

3.2 **STATUS ORANGE** - Weather Warning - Be Prepared

Advice to Students Students make their own informed decision based on localised weather reports, taking health and safety into account. All students must complete 80% attendance on clinical placement and 100% on specialist placements in order to have their competence workbook assessments completed. Students will be required to meet the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) Standards and Requirements for clinical placement, therefore time missed from clinical placement may need to be addressed.

3.3 **STATUS RED** - Severe Weather Warning - Take Action

Advice to Students Supernumerary students are instructed not to travel to or from clinical placement because of health and safety concerns. Attendance will not be affected if there is a status red weather warning in effect.

3.4 In the event of adverse weather conditions, when a student cannot travel to or from clinical placement the student must contact the relevant clinical site to inform them that they will not be attending due to the adverse weather.

3.5 If absent from clinical placement due to STATUS RED WEATHER ALERT this time will not have to be made up by the student. However, it may be necessary to allocate alternative time to complete competency documents.

SIGNATORY ON BEHALF OF AIT

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____



SIGNATORY ON BEHALF OF THE HSE

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

