



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF POLICY STATEMENT

Title of Policy Statement: Simulation and Clinical Training for Respiratory Care Practitioners during the COVID-19 Declared Emergency | Policy Number: RCP-21-01

Issuing Entity: Department of Health

Subject Matter: Clarifying the Department of Health's position on Respiratory Care Practitioners using simulations to meet required clinical hours during the COVID-19 declared emergency and the subsequent 180-day period.

Effective Date: 07/01/2021

Contact Person: U. James Chaney, Executive Director, Respiratory Therapists
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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

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**Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Policy Statement**

Revised – 10/18/11

Title:	Simulation and Clinical Training for Respiratory Care Practitioners during the COVID-19 Declared Emergency.	Number: <i>RCP-21-01</i>
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References:	Chapter 246-928 WAC and RCW 18.89.050	
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Approved By:	Christie Spice, Acting Assistant Secretary	

It is the Department of Health's (department) position that respiratory care practitioners may use simulation to meet required clinic hours during the COVID-19 declared emergency and subsequent 180-day period, in accordance with applicable accreditation standards and guidance.

The department does not specify the content of respiratory care therapy training programs. Instead, [WAC 246-928-520](#) requires respiratory care therapists to graduate from an accredited training program.

Washington accepts respiratory training programs accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (COARC), or by the American Medical Association's (AMA) Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA), or its successor, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program (CAAHEP). COARC's [accreditation standards](#) state that simulation is encouraged in addition to clinical training, but cannot replace patient contact. During the COVID-19 pandemic, however, COARC has allowed programs additional flexibility. May 20, 2021 [guidance](#) states COARC "will continue to allow programs to use whatever methods they deem appropriate/necessary for them to meet the outcomes mandated by the Standards." When the pandemic crisis subsides, "programs need to return to pre-pandemic processes/status as soon as practicable."

During the COVID-19 declared emergency and subsequent 180-day period, the department will continue to consider applicants graduating from accredited institutions as meeting the minimum educational qualifications for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner under [WAC 246-928-520](#), even if those programs use simulation to meet required clinic hours.

In summary, it is the department's position that respiratory care practitioners may use simulation to meet required clinical hours during the COVID-19 declared emergency and subsequent 180-day period, in accordance with applicable accreditation standards and guidance.