

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS AND INCLUSION OF NURSING STUDENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL INFLUENZA PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLANS**

**SUBMITTED BY: THE STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS, “pandemic is defined as disease affecting or attacking the population of an extensive region, including several countries, and/or continent(s)”; and

WHEREAS, “the present state of alert among world health authorities is the belief that we are witnessing the development of a . . . once in a 100-year major flu pandemic due to the emergence of a[n] H5N1 Influenza virus type A [Avian Influenza]”; and

WHEREAS, “although person-to-person transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) appears to be rare, one major concern is that a person infected with HPAI could also become co-infected with a normal human influenza virus. Genetic material could be exchanged between the HPAI virus and the human influenza virus, which could result in an influenza virus that is transmitted easily from person-to-person”; and

WHEREAS, “an influenza pandemic will post unique challenges . . . medical services and health care workers . . . will be overwhelmed . . . [and] may not be able to provide essential care to all patients in need”; and

WHEREAS, ‘the Influenza Pandemic Response Plan (IPRP) addresses the unique challenges that could rapidly unfold . . . [and] identifies the roles and responsibilities of key public health responders”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) promote increased awareness and inclusion of nursing students in the implementation of state and federal Influenza Pandemic Response Plans; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with local, state, and federal pandemic response committees, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA provide continued updates regarding the development and implementation of Influenza Pandemic Response Plans through the use of *Imprint* articles and/or NSNA website updates, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA provide a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Hospital Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Red Cross, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the National League for Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.