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Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
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**LICENSING CHANGES
DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY**

On March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth to respond to the spread of COVID-19. On March 17, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Order Extending the Registrations of Certain Licensed Health Care Professionals and an Order Extending the Registrations of Certain Licensed Professionals. On March 26, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Order Extending Certain Professional Licenses, Permits and Registrations issued by Commonwealth Agencies. On April 3, 2020, Massachusetts Department of Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel issued an Order Maximizing Health Care Provider Availability, which rescinded and replaced her Order from March 29, 2020 of the same title.

In accordance with the Governor's Orders and the Commissioner's Order, the following provisions shall apply to current and expired licenses issued by the Boards of Registration within the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Health Professions Licensure.

I. Terms and Applicability

For purposes of this guidance, the terms below are defined as follows:

- The term "license" includes a license, registration, certificate or authorization.
- The term "in good standing" means a license that is current and that may be subject to probation or non-disciplinary conditions but shall not include a license that is revoked, cancelled, surrendered, suspended or subject to disciplinary restrictions.
- The term "health care providers" includes the following: registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, nursing home administrators, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, perfusionists, genetic counselors, and community health workers.

Part II of this guidance applies to all license types issued by Boards of Registration within the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Health Profession's Licensure.

Parts III through V of this guidance applies to health care providers, as that term is defined above.

II. Extension of License Expiration

Licenses issued to individuals by the Boards of Registration within the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Health Professions Licensure shall not expire during the pendency of the State of Emergency. Specifically:

- (1) Licenses that were not revoked, suspended, surrendered, cancelled or subject to non-disciplinary restrictions and which expired between March 10, 2020 and March 17, 2020 will be restored to current status.
- (2) Licenses which are due to expire during the pendency of the State of Emergency shall not expire until 90 days after the Governor issues notice that the State of Emergency no longer exists.
- (3) The Massachusetts Health Professions License Verification Site, located at <https://checklicense.hhs.state.ma.us/MyLicenseVerification/> will continue to display the license status for all licensees, but will not display an expiration date during the pendency of the State of Emergency.

III. Renewal of Previously Expired Licenses

Health care providers whose Massachusetts license expired during the ten years preceding the State of Emergency may be temporarily renewed or reactivated during the State of Emergency. Licensees seeking renewal or reactivation should apply online at: <https://onlineservices.hhs.state.ma.us/MyLicense%20Enterprise/> .

- (1) Health care providers whose licenses were not revoked, suspended, surrendered, cancelled or subject to non-disciplinary restrictions and which expired between March 10, 2010 and March 9, 2020 will have their licenses restored to current status upon request.
- (2) Health care providers who request renewal or reactivation of their licenses in accordance with these provisions are exempt from any applicable continuing education or reactivation requirements and from payment of the applicable renewal fee. Licenses that are renewed or reactivated in accordance with these provisions shall remain valid until 90 days following the termination of the State of Emergency.
- (3) Upon termination of the State of Emergency, the Department of Public Health will issue further guidance for health care providers who renewed or reactivated in accordance with these provisions and seek to maintain current licensure beyond 90 days following the termination of the State of Emergency.

IV. Emergency reciprocity licensure

Health care providers who are licensed in another state and whose license is in good standing are eligible for a temporary, corresponding Massachusetts license that shall remain valid during the State of Emergency.

- (1) Health care providers who are licensed in another state must provide information to the corresponding Massachusetts Board of Registration sufficient to allow verification that the health care provider holds a license in good standing in another state. There is no application fee.
- (2) Licenses that are issued in accordance with these provisions shall remain valid during the State of Emergency and shall authorize the holder to provide services in Massachusetts and across state lines into Massachusetts using telemedicine where appropriate. The services provided in Massachusetts and into Massachusetts using telemedicine must be within the scope of practice authorized by Massachusetts licensure, in accordance with Massachusetts laws, regulations, and any applicable Order issued by the Governor or the Commissioner during the State of Emergency.

V. Telemedicine

The Boards of Registration within the Department of Public Health shall refrain from taking disciplinary action or other enforcement action solely upon the basis of providing telemedicine services to a patient in Massachusetts provided that the person providing such telemedicine services holds a valid Massachusetts license at the time the service is provided, including a license issued in accordance with these provisions.

In addition, the Board of Registration in Nursing shall refrain from taking any disciplinary action solely upon the basis of providing telemedicine services against the license of a nurse who provides care to an established patient who is a student enrolled in a college or university located in Massachusetts during the 2019-2020 academic year upon the student's return to his or her home state. If the student's home state is a state other than Massachusetts, nurses who provide such continued care are nevertheless advised to contact the applicable licensing board in the state in which the patient/client/student is at the time of service to determine whether or not such practice is permitted in that jurisdiction.

The Order and this guidance are effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the State of Emergency is terminated by the Governor, or the Order is rescinded by the Commissioner, whichever shall happen first.