



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

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NOTICE

TO: Licensed Health Care Professionals

FROM: Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Registration Renewal Extension

DATE: December 21, 2020

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 and 18, 2020, the Governor issued an Order Extending the Registrations of Certain Licensed Health Care Professionals and an Order Extending the Registrations of Certain Licensed Professionals. Effective July 10, 2020, the Governor rescinded the foregoing orders with the proviso that licenses, registrations or permits previously issued or extended under the Orders' authority shall *at a minimum* remain valid through October 1, 2020.

In accordance with the rescission of the Governor's Orders, the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) issued guidance on October 2, 2020 implementing the rescission effective as of December 31, 2020. In light of the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth, BHPL extends the effective date of the rescission of license extensions to June 30, 2021. Accordingly, the following provisions shall apply to current and expired licenses issued by the Boards of Registration and the Drug Control Program within BHPL.

1. **Registrations ordinarily due to next expire on or after June 30, 2021**

Registrations¹ that, as of March 10, 2020, were due to next expire on or after June 30, 2021, will expire on their next normally scheduled date. Registration holders may apply to renew their registrations in the ordinary course during the 90 days preceding the expiration date.

The registrations in this category include:

Registration type	Next normal expiration date after March 10, 2020
Dental Assistants	October 31, 2021
Licensed Practical Nurses	2021 Birthday of registrant that falls on or after July 1, 2021
Pharmacy Technicians - odd year renewal cycle	2021 Birthday of registrant that falls on or after July 1, 2021
Perfusionists	September 1, 2021
Community Health Workers	July 31, 2021

2. **Registrations ordinarily due to next expire between March 10, 2020 & June 30, 2021**

Registrations that, as of March 10, 2020, were due to next expire between March 10, 2020 and June 30, 2021, did not expire on their ordinary date as a result of the emergency orders extending registration and the terms of the order rescinding the same. However, during this period registrants may choose to renew in the ordinary course. Accordingly, the registrations will expire as follows:

- Registrations that were renewed in the ordinary course despite the emergency extension orders will expire on their next normal expiration date.
- Registrations that were not renewed in the ordinary course shall remain in “current” status until June 30, 2021. If not renewed prior to June 30, 2021, such registrations shall expire effective June 30, 2021. Upon renewal, the registrations shall be valid until the next normal expiration date.

The registrations in this category include:

Registration type	Next normal expiration date after March 10, 2020
Dentists	March 31, 2020
Registered Nurses (includes Advanced Practice Registered Nurses)	2020 Birthday of registrant that falls between March 10, 2020 and December 31, 2020
Licensed Practical Nurses	2021 Birthday of registrant that falls on or before June 30, 2021
Pharmacists	December 31, 2020
Pharmacy Technicians - even year renewal cycle - odd year renewal cycle	2020 Birthday of registrant that falls after March 10, 2020 2021 Birthday of registrant that falls on or before June 30, 2021
Respiratory Therapists	May 31, 2020
Nursing Home Administrators	June 30, 2020
Dental Hygienists	March 31, 2021

¹ For purposes of this guidance, the term “registration” includes registrations, licenses, authorization, certifications and permits issued by the Boards of Registration within BHPL.

Physician Assistants	March 1, 2021
Genetic Counselors	January 31, 2021

3. **Massachusetts Controlled Substances Registrations**

Massachusetts Controlled Substances Registrations (MCSR) that, as of March 10, 2020, were due to next expire concurrently with the holder's professional license shall expire at the same time as the professional license, and shall also be subject to similar provisions for renewal as are provided for the professional license, including status change and grace period.

For guidance on how the rescission of the emergency impacts MCSR that, as of March 10, 2020, were due to next expire on a date that is different from the expiration of the MCSR holder's professional license, please refer to the Drug Control Program's MCSR website for more information: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-controlled-substances-registration>.

4. **Registrations that are not renewable or have limited renewals.**

Some BHPL issued registrations are limited, are not renewable or have limited renewals. For guidance on how the rescission of the emergency orders impacts such registrations, please contact the issuing Board.

The registrations in this category include:

Registration type
Limited License Dentists (Interns and Faculty)
Pharmacy Intern
Pharmacy Technician in Training
Respiratory Therapist Limited Permit
Physician Assistant Temporary License
Perfusionist Provisional License
Genetic Counselor Provisional License

5. **The foregoing guidance applies only to registrations that are in good standing.**

The foregoing guidance shall not apply to any registration that has been revoked, cancelled, suspended or surrendered. The foregoing guidance shall not be applied in a manner that would lift any probation conditions, non-disciplinary conditions or non-disciplinary restrictions imposed by the BHPL Boards.

Contact Information:

Questions on this notice should be directed to the registrant's relevant licensing authority.