

Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

Suspended Licensing Regulations

Updated 4/2/20

To increase the available number of practitioners due to COVID-19, Governor Wolf granted temporary suspensions of licensing-related laws and regulations to ensure all patients get the care they need during this crisis. All suspensions, press releases and further information are posted at the following link: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Waivers.aspx>.

Table of Contents

Healthcare Licensees	2
Board of Nursing	2
Board of Medicine.....	4
Board of Osteopathic Medicine.....	6
Board of Pharmacy.....	8
Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.....	9
Board of Psychology.....	10
Board of Dentistry.....	11
Board of Podiatry.....	11
Board of Veterinary Medicine	12
Board of Nursing Home Administrators.....	12
Telemedicine	12
Other Licensees	14
Board of Cosmetology and Board of Barber Examiners.....	14
Notaries Public.....	14
License Renewal Extensions	15
Continuing Education	15
Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons.....	16
Board of Funeral Directors	16
Real Estate Commission	17

Healthcare Licensees

Board of Nursing

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status – Additional Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Summary-More-Retiree-License-Types.pdf>

Summary: Permits additional healthcare practitioners with a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. For the Board of Nursing, licensed practical nurses (LPNs) were added.

Subject: Licensure Expiration Date and Renewal

Issuance Date: 3/27/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-27-Regulation-Waiver-License-Renewals.pdf>

Summary: For Board of Nursing licensees whose license renewals fall between April 30, 2020 and June 30, 2020 will have an additional 90 days to renew their license as follows:

- Registered Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner and Prescriptive Authority license renewal deadlines will be extended from April 30, 2020, to July 29, 2020.
- Practical Nurse license renewal will be extended from June 30, 2020, to Sept. 28, 2020.

Subject: Collaborative Agreements, Licensure by Endorsement, Nurse Anesthetists

Issuance Date: 3/27/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-27-Summary-of-Additional-Nursing-Waivers.pdf>

Summary:

- Under the temporary waiver, CRNPs who have a collaborative agreement with a physician in a hospital or health system are now permitted to collaborate with other physician(s) within the same hospital or health system, without written and signed collaborative agreements.
- The requirement that a CRNP may only collaborate with a physician who holds Pennsylvania licensure is temporarily waived.
- Unless there is a Prescriptive Authority Collaborative Agreement, CRNPs may not prescribe and dispense under the additional collaboration.
- For Registered Nurse (RN) and Practical Nurse (PN) applicants already licensed in another state, the English-language proficiency testing requirement for Temporary Practice Permits is temporarily waived, due to the closure of testing centers during this disaster declaration.

- For Practical Nurses, the required 1,500 hours of education, or its equivalent, for PN licensure by endorsement is temporarily waived for PNs who hold a current license in another state and have graduated from a practical nursing education program approved by another state.
- The required 1,500 hours of education, or its equivalent, for PN licensure by examination is temporarily waived for graduates of a practical nursing education program approved by another state.
- For certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), the requirement to administer anesthesia in cooperation with a surgeon is temporarily waived and replaced with any physician.
- The requirement for CRNA graduates who have completed approved anesthesia programs to receive board approval to continue to practice if they are unable to take the CRNA examination due to extenuating circumstances is temporarily waived due to the closure of testing centers. CRNA graduates who are unable to take the exam but want to continue to practice must practice under the direct supervision of a chief or director of anesthesia services or a board-certified anesthesiologist.
- For clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), the requirement for applicants for certification by endorsement to demonstrate educational equivalency is temporarily waived.

Subject: Graduate and Temporary Permits, Licenses in Renewal, CRNP Prescriptive Authority and Collaborative Agreements, CRNP Certification by Endorsement

Issuance Date: 3/20/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-20-Nursing-Omnibus-Requirement-Waiver.pdf>

Summary of Suspension:

- Temporary nursing practice permits and graduate permits will be extended beyond one year and extension fees will be waived.
- Registered Nurses will not have to apply for extensions of their RN graduate or temporary permits. All temporary and graduate permits that would normally expire during the next 90 days will be automatically extended for an additional 90 days.
- Practical Nurses will not have to apply for extensions of their PN graduate or temporary permits. All temporary and graduate permits that would normally expire during the next 90 days will be automatically extended for an additional 90 days.
- Registered Nurses, Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) and Certified Nurse Specialists (CNS) can continue to care for patients if their licenses are currently "in renewal" and set to expire on April 30, 2020. These licenses will be extended for an additional three months until July 31, 2020.
- Nursing school graduates can immediately apply for a graduate permit so they can assist in the COVID-19 response. The graduate permit authorizes graduate nurses to practice under supervision of a registered nurse until they can take the examinations. The permits expire if the graduate permit holder fails the examination. This only applies to nursing school graduates who:
 - have been issued "Authorizations to Test" by the board; and
 - have been unable to sit for the licensure examinations due to cancellation of the examinations because of COVID-19, and;

- Do not already have a graduate permit.
- Temporary suspension of requirement for CRNPs that they practice within a specific clinical specialty and prescribing of drugs outside the established formulary temporarily.
- On a CRNP's initial application for prescription-writing authority, the State Board of Nursing will require only one collaborative physician and one substitute physician, rather than the entire list of substitutes.
- Out-of-state applicants for certification as a CRNP by endorsement in Pennsylvania, who are active licensees of other states and have national certification, will not have to meet the educational equivalence requirement.

Subject: Allowing Inactive Status Nursing Licensees to Practice

Issuance Date: 3/25/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-25-Retirees-Suspension-Waiver.pdf>

Summary: The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) suspended several regulatory/statutory provisions to permit health care professionals who have a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. Registered Nurses, Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners, and Certified Nurse Specialists whose licenses have been expired/inactive for less than five years can apply for reactivation of their licenses.

Subject: Expedited Temporary Licensure

Issuance Date: 3/18/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-18-Temporary-Licenses-Out-of-State-Practitioners.pdf>

Summary: Allows expedited temporary licensure to practitioners in other states to provide services in Pennsylvania for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. Continuing education requirements are also waived temporarily.

Board of Medicine

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status – Additional Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Summary-More-Retiree-License-Types.pdf>

Summary: Additional healthcare practitioners with a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. For the Board of Medicine, the expansion of the previous waiver now includes Behavior Specialists.

Subject: License Expiration Date and Renewal

Issuance Date: 3/27/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-27-Regulation-Waiver-License-Renewals.pdf>

Summary: A Graduate Medical Trainee license holder, whose license renewal deadline falls on June 30, will now have until September 28, 2020 to renew their license.

Subject: Suggestions for Prescribing Hydroxychloroquine

Issuance Date: 3/26/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/Documents/Prescribing-Suggestions-for-Hydroxychloroquine.pdf>

Summary: For Board of Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine licensees, providers should include the patient's diagnosis on the prescription. If prescribing for COVID-19, the diagnosis must have been confirmed by a positive test result and documented on the prescription. Smaller quantities should be prescribed where appropriate to help avoid shortages.

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/25/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-25-Retirees-Suspension-Waiver.pdf>

Summary: The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) suspended several regulatory/statutory provisions to permit health care professionals who have a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. For the Board of Medicine, the suspension applies as follows:

- MDs whose license has been in active/retired status for less than four years can become active/unrestricted until December 31, 2020.
- MDs and allied health care professionals in expired/inactive status for less than four years can have their license reactivated and practice until December 31, 2020. Included allied health care professionals are:
 - Physician Assistants
 - Respiratory therapists
 - Perfusionists

Subject: Continuing Education Waiver

Issuance Date: 3/22/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-22-Continuing-Education-Suspensions.pdf>

Summary: Temporary suspension on distance-learning for continuing education requirements for certain licensed professionals. Although only a few boards are currently in renewal, many "in-person" continuing education programs are canceling courses or closing education centers and it is unknown how long they may be impacted. For the Board of Medicine, this applies to licensed respiratory therapists.

Subject: Nurse Midwives

Issuance Date: 3/20/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-20-COVID19-Nurse-Midwives.pdf>

Summary:

- Temporary suspension of the requirement that a collaborative agreement be filed with the State Board of Medicine prior to engaging in the practice of midwifery. Instead, after the collaborative agreement is agreed upon, certified nurse-midwives may immediately begin to engage in practice of midwifery.
- Temporary suspension of the requirements to notify the Board of changes to a collaborative agreement.
- Temporary suspension of the re-entry requirements for inactive certified nurse-midwives who hold an active registered nurse license, including personal interviews by the Board.
- Temporary suspension of continuing education requirements for certified nurse-midwives with prescriptive authority.

Subject: Institutional License Limitations

Issuance Date: 3/20/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-20-Doctors-Suspension-of-Institutional-License-Requirements.pdf>

Summary: In order to increase the number of practitioners available to respond to COVID-19, Governor Wolf granted the Department of State's request to suspend the limitations on the number of institutions with which a medical doctor can be affiliated and the requirement to report those affiliations to the Board of Medicine for the duration of the disaster declaration.

Subject: Expedited Temporary Licensure

Issuance Date: 3/18/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-18-Temporary-Licenses-Out-of-State-Practitioners.pdf>

Summary: Allows expedited temporary licensure to practitioners in other states to provide services in Pennsylvania for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. Continuing education requirements are also waived temporarily.

Board of Osteopathic Medicine

Subject: Temporary Practice for Licensees in Other States and Canada

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Osteopathic-Medicine-Camp-Licenses.pdf>

Summary: The Department of State will permit osteopathic physicians licensed in other U.S. states or Canada to utilize the "camp license" as a means of permitting them to practice in Pennsylvania on a temporary basis. Short-term camp licenses already exist in statute and allow

osteopathic physicians to practice at a camp in Pennsylvania for up to three months. The following apply:

- Camp licenses, when granted, will be valid until October 31, 2020, meaning the three-month limitation will temporarily be waived.
- Osteopathic physicians licensed under the camp license will be able to practice at any location where they are needed and will not be limited to camp locations.
- As long as BPOA can verify that the licensee is licensed in good standing in their home state or in Canada, BPOA is permitted to waive other requirements such as letters of good standing and continuing education mandates.

Subject: Suggestions for Prescribing Hydroxychloroquine

Issuance Date: 3/26/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/Documents/Prescribing-Suggestions-for-Hydroxychloroquine.pdf>

Summary: For Board of Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine licensees, providers should include the patient's diagnosis on the prescription. If prescribing for COVID-19, the diagnosis must have been confirmed by a positive test result and documented on the prescription. Smaller quantities should be prescribed where appropriate to help avoid shortages.

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/25/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-25-Retirees-Suspension-Waiver.pdf>

Summary: The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) suspended several regulatory/statutory provisions to permit health care professionals who have a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. The suspension applies to the following licensees:

- DOs whose license has been in active/retired status for less than four years can become active/unrestricted until October 31, 2020.
- DOs and allied health care professionals in expired/inactive status for less than four years can have their license reactivated and practice until October 31, 2020. Included allied health care professionals are:
 - Physician Assistants
 - Respiratory therapists
 - Perfusionists

Subject: Physician Assistants

Issuance Date: 3/22/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-22-Physician-Assistant-Waiver.pdf>

Summary:

- Temporary suspension of ratio and waiver requirements. Currently, physicians are restricted from supervising more than 4 physician assistants at a time and must get a waiver from the Board to supervise more.
- Temporary suspension of requirement that all physicians be named on a physician assistant's written agreement. Only one primary and one substitute will need to be named.
- Temporary suspension of requirement that written agreements need board approval. Written agreements will be effective upon submission to Board.
- Countersignature requirements will be suspended.
- Temporary suspension of requirement that the Board must approve use of a physician assistant at "satellite operations".
- No suspensions are needed for those that practice under the State Board of Medicine since there is an emergency medical services clause in their regulations.

Subject: Expedited Temporary Licensure

Issuance Date: 3/18/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-18-Temporary-Licenses-Out-of-State-Practitioners.pdf>

Summary: Allows expedited temporary licensure to practitioners in other states to provide services in Pennsylvania for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. Continuing education requirements are also waived temporarily.

Board of Pharmacy

Subject: Suggestions for Prescribing Hydroxychloroquine

Issuance Date: 3/26/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/Documents/Prescribing-Suggestions-for-Hydroxychloroquine.pdf>

Summary: Pharmacists should confirm that patients have tested positive for COVID-19 before dispensing to mitigate potential shortages. Patients who have already been taking the hydroxychloroquine or who have been prescribed the medication for another purpose (such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis) should continue to access the medication without any additional verification. Pharmacists should dispense smaller quantities where appropriate.

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/25/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-25-Retirees-Suspension-Waiver.pdf>

Summary: The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) suspended several regulatory/statutory provisions to permit health care professionals who have a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. As such, pharmacists who are expired/inactive for less than four years may apply for reactivation of their licenses.

Subject: Pharmacy Services

Issuance Date: 3/22/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-21-Pharmacy-Omnibus-Requirement-Suspension.pdf>

Summary:

- Temporary suspension on the requirement that a supervising pharmacist be available “on the premises” to supervise work of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns as it relates to prescription and data processing. This will enable pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns to work remotely and receive supervision using technological means.
- Temporary suspension of the registration requirement for out-of-state pharmacies that wish to ship goods into Pennsylvania but do not currently hold the necessary Nonresident Pharmacy registration from the State Board of Pharmacy.
- Temporary suspension of the requirement that a pharmacist holds an active CPR certificate. If a pharmacist’s CPR certificate was valid on March 17, 2020, the Board will accept it as valid through December 31, 2020.
- Temporary suspension of certain licensure requirements to allow expedited temporary licensure to pharmacy practitioners and pharmacies in other states to provide goods and services to Pennsylvanians. This includes suspension of CE requirements.
- Temporary suspension of regulation that requires a pharmacy to immediately turn in its permit in the event it closes or ceases operations and directs pharmacies to follow certain directions from the State Board.

Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status – Additional Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Summary-More-Retiree-License-Types.pdf>

Summary: Permits additional healthcare practitioners with a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. Clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors are now eligible for this waiver.

Subject: Trainees Under Clinical Supervision

Issuance Date: 3/26/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-26-Summary-Psych-Counselors.pdf>

Summary: Individuals who are not yet licensed, but have at least 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience, may provide teletherapy services as long as they are receiving supervision from a supervisor who meets all the regulatory supervision requirements:

- Individuals under clinical supervision to become clinical social workers.
- Individuals under clinical supervision to become marriage and family therapists.
- Individuals under clinical supervision to become professional counselors.

Subject: Supervision Requirements

Issuance Date: 3/22/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-23-Psychology-Social-Work.pdf>

Summary: Temporary suspension of the requirements that the supervisor, or one to whom supervisory responsibilities have been delegated, must meet with the supervisee for a minimum of 2 hours for every 40 hours of supervised clinical experience. These hours now may be completed through electronic means, preferably on a HIPAA-compliant platform, but if that is not available, then by online methods such as Skype or Facetime.

Board of Psychology

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status – Additional Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Summary-More-Retiree-License-Types.pdf>

Summary: Permits additional healthcare practitioners with a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. Psychologists under the Board of Psychology are now eligible for this waiver.

Subject: Trainees Under Clinical Supervision

Issuance Date: 3/26/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-26-Summary-Psych-Counselors.pdf>

Summary: Individuals who are not yet licensed, but have at least 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience, may provide teletherapy services as long as they are receiving supervision from a supervisor who meets all the regulatory supervision requirements.

Subject: Supervision Requirements

Issuance Date: 3/22/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-23-Psychology-Social-Work.pdf>

Summary: Temporary suspension of the requirements that the supervisor, or one to whom supervisory responsibilities have been delegated, must meet with the supervisee for a minimum

of 2 hours for every 40 hours of supervised clinical experience. These hours now may be completed through electronic means, preferably on a HIPAA-compliant platform, but if that is not available, then by online methods such as Skype or Facetime.

Board of Dentistry

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status – Additional Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Summary-More-Retiree-License-Types.pdf>

Summary: Permits additional healthcare practitioners with a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. For the Board of Dentistry, licensed dentists and dental assistants whose licenses have been expired 5 years or less are now eligible for the waiver.

Subject: Guidelines for Practice During COVID-19 Outbreak

Issuance Date: 3/26/20

Press Release:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Guidance%20on%20COVID-19%20for%20Dental%20Health%20Care%20Personnel%20in%20Pennsylvania.pdf>

Summary: In accordance with the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Health has directed all dental facilities to cease all dental treatment except urgent and emergency dental care. Non-urgent care appointments should be canceled until further notice. Patients should be asked pre-screening questions prior to the urgent or emergency dental appointment to determine whether the patient is suspected of having COVID-19.

Board of Podiatry

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status – Additional Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Summary-More-Retiree-License-Types.pdf>

Summary: Permits additional healthcare practitioners with a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. Individuals licensed under the Board of Podiatry are now eligible for this waiver.

Board of Veterinary Medicine

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status – Additional Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Summary-More-Retiree-License-Types.pdf>

Summary: Permits additional healthcare practitioners with a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. Licensed veterinarians and veterinary technicians are now eligible for this waiver if their license has been inactive for no more than 5 years.

Board of Nursing Home Administrators

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status – Additional Healthcare Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Summary-More-Retiree-License-Types.pdf>

Summary: Permits additional healthcare practitioners with a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. Licensed nursing home administrators are now eligible for this waiver.

Telemedicine

Subject: Access to Telemedicine

Issuance Date: 3/18/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-18-Telemedicine-Summary.pdf>

Summary:

- Licensed health care practitioners are permitted to provide telemedicine services to Pennsylvanians during COVID-19 crisis. This new guidance applies to the following 15 health-related boards:
 - Chiropractic
 - Dentistry
 - Medicine
 - Nursing
 - Optometry
 - Pharmacy
 - Podiatry
 - Psychology
 - Massage Therapy

- Osteopathic Medicine
 - Nursing Home Administrators
 - Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure
 - Physical Therapy
 - Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors
 - Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
 - Veterinary Medicine
- Licensed practitioners in other states are permitted to provide services to Pennsylvanians via the use of telemedicine, without obtaining a Pennsylvania license, for the duration of the emergency. Out-of-state practitioners must:
- Be licensed and in good standing in their home state, territory or country.
 - Provide the Pennsylvania board from whom they would normally seek licensure with the following information prior to practicing telemedicine:
 - Their full name, home or work mailing address, telephone number and email address; and
 - Their license type, license number or other identifying information that is unique to that practitioner's license, and the state or other governmental body that issued the license.

Other Licensees

Board of Cosmetology and Board of Barber Examiners

Subject: License Renewal Extension

Issuance Date: 3/27/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-27-Regulation-Waiver-License-Renewals.pdf>

Summary: Barber licenses set to expire by April 30, 2020 will have until July 29, 2020 to renew their licenses.

Subject: Temporary License Expiration and Notarization

Issuance Date: 3/26/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-26-Regulation-Waiver-Barbers-Cosmetologists.pdf>

Summary:

- For temporary student licenses for barbering, cosmetology and limited licenses (esthetician, nail technician, and natural hair braider) that were set to expire within the next 90 days, an additional 90-day extension will be granted.
- The notarization requirement is temporarily waived for cosmetology schools' quarterly reports regarding hours and curriculum.

Notaries Public

Subject: In-Person Notarization

Issuance Date: 3/25/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-25-Notaries-Inperson-limited-suspension.pdf>

See also #24 on the Department of Community Economic Development (DCED) guidance for essential businesses: <https://www.scribd.com/document/452553495/UPDATED-4-00pm-April-1-2020-Life-Sustaining-Business-FAQs>

Summary: The Department of State issued a temporary, limited suspension of the provision of Pennsylvania law requiring the physical presence of notaries. The limited suspension applies as follows:

- The physical presence requirement is suspended for personal real estate transactions, but only if the transaction was already in process prior to the emergency declaration.
- The physical presence requirement for commercial real estate transactions is suspended both for in-process transactions and new transactions.

- Notaries may use audiovisual technology as an alternative to appearing in-person as long as they:
 - Become an approved electronic notary;
 - Use an e-notarization technology already approved by the Department for remote notarization; and
 - Indicate in the notary certificate that the notarial act was performed by means of communication technology.

Subject: Court Reporters

Issuance Date: 3/21/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-21-Court-Reporters-Notaries-in-person.pdf>

Summary: Temporary suspension of requirement for physical presence of notaries who are court reporters/stenographers participating in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings.

License Renewal Extensions

Subject: Extension of upcoming license renewal period

Issuance Date: 3/27/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-27-Regulation-Waiver-License-Renewals.pdf>

Summary: Individuals holding a license in any of the following license categories, whose license renewals fall between April 30, 2020 and June 30, 2020 will have an additional 90 days to renew their license:

- State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators: The Nursing Home Administrator license renewal deadline will be extended from June 30, 2020, to Sept. 28, 2020.
- State Navigation Commission: Navigation Pilot license renewal will be extended from May 1, 2020, to July 30, 2020.
- State Real Estate Commission: Renewal deadlines for all license types will be extended from May 31, 2020, to Aug. 29, 2020.

Continuing Education

Subject: Continuing Education Distance Learning Waiver

Issuance Date: 3/22/20

Press Release:

Summary:

- Temporary suspension on distance-learning for continuing education requirements for certain licensed professionals. Although only a few boards are currently in renewal, many

“in-person” continuing education programs are canceling courses or closing education centers and it is unknown how long they may be impacted.

- The Boards listed below have restrictions on the number or percentage of continuing-education hours that can be done through distance education. This temporary suspension will allow for continuing education to occur online during this emergency.
 - State Board of Accountancy
 - State Board of Massage Therapy
 - State Board of Optometry – Optometrists
 - State Board of Podiatry – Podiatrists
 - State Board of Veterinary Medicine – Veterinarians
 - State Board of Dentistry – Dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants
 - State Board of Psychology – Psychologists
 - State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors – Licensed social workers, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors.

Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons

Subject: Restricted Operations

Issuance Date: 3/31/20

Press Release: <https://www.scribd.com/document/452553495/UPDATED-4-00pm-April-1-2020-Life-Sustaining-Business-FAQs> (Go to #35)

Summary: Automobile dealers may not continue physical operations per the Industry Operation Guidance. Nevertheless, certain activities at automobile dealers, such as repairs to passenger and commercial vehicles, may continue. New and used sales at automobile dealerships are not permitted.

Some dealerships have asked for the ability to operate remotely; any business that has the ability to operate remotely and provide sales via Internet can operate. However, a dealership cannot complete the entire process in Pennsylvania remotely. Pennsylvania requires a notary to be physically present to verify the identity and signature of the purchaser. Under Pennsylvania law, remote notarization is not currently authorized. No regulatory suspension has been issued to waive the in-person requirement for notaries public in the event of vehicle sales. The only waivers of the in-person requirement that have been granted to notaries public relate to real estate sales and court reporting.

Board of Funeral Directors

Subject: 10-Day Burial Requirement

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Regulation-Waiver-Funeral-Directors-Summary.pdf>

Summary: In Pennsylvania, funeral directors licensed by the State Board of Funeral Directors are required to promptly prepare and bury the deceased person entrusted to their care within

10 days. The board can grant extensions to permit funeral directors to exceed 10 days. This regulation, the “10-day rule,” will be temporarily suspended, and the length of time a funeral home may retain a deceased person’s body is automatically extended to 30 days until the COVID-19 emergency ends, to accommodate the need to maintain safe social distancing practices while still providing services and comfort to grieving families.

Subject: Inactive and Retired Status – Additional Professionals

Issuance Date: 3/30/20

Press Release: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Documents/2020-03-30-Summary-More-Retiree-License-Types.pdf>

Summary: Permits additional professionals with a retired/inactive license to practice without having to complete continuing education requirements and without paying reactivation fees. Licensed funeral directors are now eligible to apply for reactivation of an inactive license without penalty.

Real Estate Commission

Subject: Life-Sustaining Businesses

Issuance Date: Updated 4/1/20

Link: <https://www.scribd.com/document/452553026/UPDATED-4-00pm-April-1-2020-Industry-Operation-Guidance>

Summary: In the list of business types that are considered life sustaining and may continue operations, the following are **not** considered life sustaining and are not permitted to conduct business:

- Lessors of Real Estate
- Offices of Real Estate Agents and Brokers
- Activities Related to Real Estate

Further, the administration’s regulatory suspension permitting notaries public to provide notary services via communication technology for sales that are already in progress is understood to mean that real estate agents may conclude sales that were already in progress prior to Governor Wolf’s order as long as they do not begin new sales or conduct any other business.