



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
239 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

Tel: 617-973-0800
TTY : 617-973-0988
www.mass.gov/dph/boards

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MARGRET R. COOKE
Acting Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

**LICENSING CHANGES
FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY**

The State of Emergency relative to COVID-19 terminated on June 15, 2021. This Guidance addresses the status of licenses granted pursuant to emergency orders. Specifically, this Guidance addresses the extension of license expiration dates¹ and temporary licenses².

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.

This guidance is effective immediately.

¹ Please see COVID-19 Order No. 41 and Notice issued by Department of Public Health, Bureau Health Professions Licensure on December 21, 2020: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/signed-rescission-and-childcare-reopen-order-41/download>; <https://www.mass.gov/doc/signed-rescission-and-childcare-reopen-order-41/download>

² Please see Commissioner’s June 14, 2021 Rescission of Order of the Commissioner of Public Health Maximizing Health Care Provider Availability: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-public-health-emergency>

II. Extension of License Expiration

Any license that was extended beyond its original expiration date during the State of Emergency will remain active until its expiration on September 15, 2021. To ensure continued authorization from the Commonwealth to practice, licensees should submit a complete application for a full license **no later than August 1, 2021** to allow for processing and issuance of a full license by September 15, 2021. Note, issuance of a full license by September 15, 2021 cannot be guaranteed if an incomplete application is submitted and/or if the application requires additional review and processing.

III. Renewal of Previously Expired Licenses

Any expired license that was temporarily renewed or reactivated during the State of Emergency will remain active until its expiration on September 15, 2021. In order to practice beyond September 15, a temporary licensee must apply for and receive a full license. To ensure continued authorization from the Commonwealth to practice, temporary licensees should submit a complete application for a full license **no later than August 1, 2021** to allow for processing and issuance of a full license by September 15, 2021. Note, issuance of a full license by September 15, 2021 cannot be guaranteed if an incomplete application is submitted and/or if the application requires additional review and processing.

If a licensure applicant did not receive a temporary license on or before June 14, 2021, that individual must apply for permanent licensure and receive such a permanent license in order to practice in the Commonwealth.

IV. Emergency reciprocity licensure

Any temporary license issued to a health care provider licensed in another state during the State of Emergency will remain active until its expiration on September 15, 2021. In order to practice beyond September 15, a temporary licensee must apply for and receive a full license. To ensure continued authorization from the Commonwealth to practice, temporary licensees should submit a complete application for a full license **no later than August 1, 2021** to allow for processing and issuance of a full license by September 15, 2021. Note, issuance of a full license by September 15, 2021 cannot be guaranteed if an incomplete application is submitted and/or if the application requires additional review and processing.

If a licensure applicant has not received a temporary license on or before June 14, 2021, that individual must apply for permanent licensure and receive such a permanent license in order to practice in the Commonwealth.

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 exceptions for telemedicine authorized during the State of Emergency will expire on September 15, 2021.