



April 7, 2020

Department of State Temporarily Waives CPR Rules for Two Additional Professional Licensing Boards

There are several boards within the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) that have regulations requiring an applicant or licensee to be certified in **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or Basic Life Support (BLS)**.

Due to the widespread closures of businesses and schools across the nation and the various stay-at-home orders that have been issued, it will be difficult for a person to receive the initial training needed to become certified or attend any “refresher” classes that may be needed periodically in order to remain certified.

The Department requested a waiver or temporary suspension of the **State Board of Dentistry’s** regulations and statutory provisions related to CPR and BSL certification, and the Governor approved this request. For the duration of the pandemic, the State Board of Dentistry will consider any CPR or BSL certification that was in effect on March 17, 2020, to remain in effect through December 31, 2020. For anyone needing to obtain *new* CPR certification during the pandemic (as a condition of initial licensure, for example, or for purposes of reactivation), the Board will waive any requirement that the certification be obtained via “hands-on” or “contact” methods. The Board will accept completion of online CPR certification. For subsequent renewal in 2021, however, individuals will be required to comply with the existing regulations and use board-approved providers of “hands-on” certification training.

The Department requested a waiver or temporary suspension of the **State Board of Massage Therapy’s** regulations and statutory provisions related to CPR certification. For the duration of the pandemic, the State Board of Massage Therapy will consider any CPR certification that was in effect on March 17, 2020, to remain in effect through December 31, 2020. The massage therapy regulations specifically require that a licensee’s CPR certification be earned through “contact hours,” something which is not currently possible due to the pandemic. For anyone needing to obtain *new* CPR certification during the pandemic (as a condition of initial licensure, for example, or for purposes of reactivation), the Board will waive any requirement that the certification be obtained via “hands-on” or “contact” methods. The Board will accept completion of online CPR certification. For subsequent renewal in 2021, however, individuals will be required to comply with the existing regulations and use board-approved providers of “hands-on” CPR certification training.

A previous waiver temporarily waived the requirement that a pharmacist with an active “authorization to administer to injectables” maintain current CPR certification in order to continue to be able to continue to administer injectables.

See also [State Board of Pharmacy–Omnibus \(March 22, 2020\)](#).