



April 7, 2020

Temporary Waiver of License Reactivation Requirements for Additional Health Care Practitioners During Coronavirus Emergency

Summary:

Previously, the Department of State's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) received approval of several regulatory waiver requests to allow certain former health care licensees who are retired, have inactive licenses or recently allowed their Pennsylvania licenses to expire or lapse, to **reactivate their licenses and immediately resume working** within their scope of practice to assist during the COVID-19 disaster period.

The department has since identified additional health care practitioner types for whom temporary waivers of certain regulations would allow them to more easily reactivate their retired or expired licenses and provide assistance during the pandemic. These additional boards and practitioners/licensees include **occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and licensed dietitian-nutritionists (LDNs)**. This waiver applies to individuals whose license has been expired or inactive for at least three months preceding the request for reactivation.

Therefore, the department requested, and Governor Wolf granted, temporary waivers of the following reactivation requirements for these license types for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency and 90 days thereafter:

Board: **State Board of Occupational Therapy**

Professions: **Occupational Therapists** (must be inactive/expired for at least three months but less than four years)

Occupational Therapy Assistants (must be inactive/expired for at least three months but less than four years)

WAIVERS: **Payment of all fees associated with reactivation are waived.**

All continuing education/continued competency requirements are waived.

Certain administrative requirements are waived, including the requirement that a sworn statement be provided which sets forth the period of time during which the licensee was not engaged in practice in this commonwealth, and the requirement that a letter of good standing be provided from another state or territory where the licensee is currently licensed or registered to practice, if applicable.

The department may waive any additional requirements not specifically identified here that it may deem, in its discretion, to be administrative in nature.

Board: **State Board of Physical Therapy**

Professions: **Physical Therapists** (must be inactive/expired for at least three months but less than five years)

Physical Therapy Assistants (must be inactive/expired for at least three months but less than five years)

WAIVERS: **Payment of all fees associated with reactivation are waived.**

All continuing education/continued competency requirements are waived.

Certain administrative requirements are waived, including the requirement that licensees verify they did not practice while their license or certification was inactive. The department may waive any additional requirements not specifically identified here that it may deem, in its discretion, to be administrative in nature.

Board: **State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**

Professions: **Speech-Language Pathologists** (must be inactive/expired for at least three months but less than five years)

Audiologists (must be inactive/expired for at least three months but less than five years)

WAIVERS: **Payment of all fees associated with reactivation are waived.**

All continuing education/continued competency requirements are waived.

Certain administrative requirements are waived, including the requirement that licensees verify they did not practice while their license or certification was inactive. The department may waive any additional requirements not specifically identified here that it may deem, in its discretion, to be administrative in nature.

Board: State Board of Nursing

Professions: **Dietitian-Nutritionists (LDNs)** (must be inactive/expired for at least three months but less than five years)

WAIVERS: **Payment of all fees associated with reactivation are waived.**

All continuing education/continued competency requirements are waived.

Certain administrative requirements are waived, such as the requirement that licensees verify they did not practice while their license or certification was inactive. The department may waive any additional requirements not specifically identified here that it may deem, in its discretion, to be administrative in nature.

Practitioners for whom waivers were previously granted include several under the jurisdiction of the state Boards of *Medicine*,¹ *Osteopathic Medicine*,² *Nursing*,³ *Pharmacy*,⁴ *Dentistry*,⁵ *Funeral Directors*,⁶ *Nursing Home Administrators*,⁷ *Podiatry*,⁸ *Psychology*,⁹ *Social Workers*,¹⁰ and *Veterinary Medicine*.¹¹ See [Certain Regulations Suspended for Nurse-Midwives](#) (issued 3/20/20); [Pennsylvania to Allow Retired](#)

[Health Care Professionals to Bolster COVID-19 Response](#) (3/25/20); and [Reactivation for Additional Retirees: Temporary Waivers Cover More Professions](#) (3/30/20).

For all licensing-related inquiries, please use the email addresses found here: [Board Contact Info](#).

- ¹ Medical Doctors, Behavior Specialists, Nurse-Midwives, Physician Assistants, Respiratory Therapists and Perfusionists.
- ² Osteopathic Doctors, Osteo. Physician Assistants, Osteo. Respiratory Therapists and Osteo. Perfusionists.
- ³ Registered Nurses, Practical Nurses, Clinical Nurse Specialists and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners.
- ⁴ Pharmacists.
- ⁵ Dentists, Dental Hygienists and Expanded Function Dental Assistants.
- ⁶ Funeral Directors.
- ⁷ Nursing Home Administrators.
- ⁸ Podiatrists.
- ⁹ Psychologists.
- ¹⁰ Social Workers, Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors.
- ¹¹ Veterinarians and Certified Veterinary Technicians.

