



April 18, 2020

Pennsylvania Extends Expiration Dates of Temporary Permits for Additional Licensees During COVID-19 Emergency

Previously, the Department of State sought and received approval from the Governor to maintain or extend the term of various temporary permits:

- [Pennsylvania Waives Some Nurse Licensing Requirements to Aid Coronavirus Response \(3/20/20\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Waives Certain Requirements for Cosmetologists and Barbers During COVID-19 Emergency \(3/26/20\)](#).

These waivers extended temporary licenses and permits that expired or are on the verge of expiring before the permit or license holder would have the opportunity to take specific examinations that have been postponed indefinitely due to COVID-related closures of testing centers/sites. The Department has identified additional temporary licenses and permits that are similarly in jeopardy of expiring, with no defined timetable for when the examinations will resume.

The Department requested – and the Governor granted – that the following additional provisions be waived and/or temporarily suspended to preserve the integrity and extend the duration of the identified temporary licenses and permits. All temporary licenses and permits identified herein are automatically extended and shall expire no earlier than 90 days following the end of the COVID-19 emergency.

The Boards and professions included under this waiver are:

- State Board of Massage Therapy
- State Board of Physical Therapy: physical therapists, physical therapy assistants
- State Board of Medicine: Graduate Physician Assistants, Respiratory Therapists, Athletic Trainers, Orthotic Fitters, Podiatrists, Graduate Orthotist, Provisional Orthotist, Prosthetist Graduate Permits, and Genetic Counselor Provisional Licenses
- State Board of Osteopathic Medicine: Respiratory Therapist Temporary Licenses, Athletic Trainer Temporary Licenses, Genetic Counselor Temporary Provisional Licenses

Example:

A temporary permit is due to expire April 23, 2020 and the examination which the permittee must take is unavailable due to the pandemic and closure of testing

sites. Under this waiver, the permittee's temporary permit will not expire on April 23, 2020, but shall remain valid until 90 days after the COVID-emergency ends. If the COVID emergency ends, by way of example only, on June 1, 2020, the temporary permit would remain valid for an additional 90 days, until approximately August 30, 2020.

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