



May 4, 2022

## **COVID-19 REGULATORY SUSPENSIONS AND WAIVERS THAT WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2022**

Pursuant to the March 26, 2020, declaration of disaster emergency relating to COVID-19, the Department of State requested, and the Governor approved, nearly 100 regulatory suspensions and waivers. See <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Waivers.aspx>.

Act 21 of 2021 was signed into law on June 11, 2021. It provided for an extension of active suspensions through September 30, 2021, unless terminated sooner than September 30 by the agency that issued the suspension.

The Department expired a number of its [suspensions](#) on August 17, August 31 and September 15, 2021. The remaining [suspensions and waivers](#) that were set to expire on September 30, 2021, were extended to March 31, 2022, by Act 73 of 2021.

**On March 30, 2022, Act 14 of 2022 was signed into law, further extending active suspensions until June 30, 2022.** Agencies were again provided with the authority to terminate their own waivers and suspensions sooner than June 30.

While many of the Department's suspensions and waivers have already expired, others are set to expire on [May 23, June 6 or June 20](#).

Thereafter, pursuant to Act 14 of 2022, all remaining waivers of the Department will expire on June 30, 2022.

### **The following waivers will expire on JUNE 30, 2022:**

- **[Licensed Health Care Practitioners providing Telemedicine Services](#)**: This waiver allowed health care professionals licensed under any of the Department of State's BPOA licensing boards to provide services to patients via telemedicine during the coronavirus emergency.
- **[Individuals seeking licensure as Psychologists, Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors](#)**: This waiver allowed individuals who are receiving supervision for clinical experience to provide teletherapy services so long as they are receiving supervision from a supervisor who complies with all required regulatory requirements.

- **Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons Licensed in Other States seeking Short Term Licensure in PA during the COVID-19 Emergency:** This waiver utilized the existing 'short-term camp license' and waives requirements that streamlines the process for those seeking emergency issuance of license.
- **Individuals working toward licensure as a behavior specialist via telemedicine or teletherapy:** This waiver allowed for hours of clinical experience obtained by individuals working toward licensure as a behavior specialist via telemedicine or teletherapy during the duration of the COVID-19 emergency be recognized as valid and counted towards the 1,000 hours of clinical experience.
- **Buprenorphine Treatment Via Telemedicine Expands Access to Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder:** This waiver suspended the requirement that physician and surgeons must take an initial medical history and physical examination requirement to expand access to buprenorphine treatment to treat opioid use disorder.
- **Nursing Students administering COVID-19 Vaccinations:** This waiver permitted nursing students who have expertise in the technical details of administering vaccines to serve as technicians, separate and apart from their clinical placements but without being licensed, to administer influenza and COVID-19 vaccines with supervision by a licensed healthcare practitioner.
- **Eligible Supervisors for COVID-19 Vaccinations:** This waiver broadened the definition of eligible supervisors to include other licensed and trained healthcare professionals whose current scope of practice allows them to immunize, thereby making it possible for pharmacy interns to administer COVID-19 vaccinations under the direct, immediate and personal supervision of a pharmacist OR certain other health care practitioners (such as physicians and surgeons, physician assistants, nurse-midwives, registered nurses and certified registered nurse practitioners).
- **Volunteers administering the COVID-19 Vaccination:** This waiver allowed licensed volunteers under the State Board of Medicine, the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, and the State Board of Nursing to administer vaccinations in settings that fall outside the definition of "approved clinic," including community-based, primary-care clinics and clinics in medically underserved areas.
- **Clinical Clerks administering COVID-19 Vaccinations:** This waiver allows clinical clerks licensed under the State Board of Medicine and the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to assist in administering COVID-19 vaccinations across Pennsylvania, rather than just in the hospitals to which they have been assigned.

- **Pharmacists delegating authority to administer COVID-19 Vaccinations:** This waiver allows pharmacists to delegate the authority to administer COVID-19 vaccines to other licensed health care practitioners whose scope of practice includes the administration of injectable vaccines, or who have otherwise been authorized or made eligible to administer COVID-19 vaccinations by way of federal or state government action including but not limited to the PREP Act Declaration and its amendments.
- **Out-of-State Osteopathic Physicians:** This waiver suspended the practical examination requirement for out-of-state Osteopathic Physicians applying for licensure by endorsement.
- **Graduate Medical Trainees administering COVID-19 Vaccinations:** This waiver increases the ability of Graduate Medical Trainees under the State Board of Medicine and the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to administer the COVID-19 vaccination at various location through Pennsylvania, rather than just their assigned medical training facility.
- **Real Estate Classes to be Livestreamed:** This waiver allows approved providers of real estate education courses that have been approved for in-person instruction to livestream those courses to students.
- **Cosmetology and Barber Licensure Through Career and Technical Education (CTE) PILOT PROGRAM:** This pilot program provides additional opportunities for cosmetology and barber CTC students to earn educational hours and practical experience. It is also designed to allow CTC educators the flexibility necessary to assist these students in obtaining all the required education hours prior to their planned graduation date.