



August 5, 2021

COVID-19 REGULATORY SUSPENSIONS AND WAIVERS THAT WILL EXPIRE ON AUGUST 17, AUGUST 31 OR SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Act 21 of 2021 was signed into law by Governor Wolf on June 11, 2021. It provides in pertinent part:

Section 2102-F. Temporary regulatory flexibility authority.

(a) Extension.--The suspension of a regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of Commonwealth business, or an order, rule or regulation of a Commonwealth agency which was suspended under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(f)(1) (relating to general authority of Governor) as of the last day that the order, as amended and renewed, was in effect is extended until September 30, 2021, unless sooner terminated by the authority which initially authorized the suspension.

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 temporary suspensions/waivers. See <https://www.dos.pa.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Waivers.aspx>. Many of these waivers have already expired. See Appendix A.

There are a number of additional waivers, however, identified by the Department that are either no longer necessary or have already served their purpose in response to the disaster declaration but have not yet been formally rescinded or expired.

The following waivers suspensions shall expire on either August 17, August 31 or September 15, 2021, as indicated below. Licensees and other affected stakeholders are urged to return to compliance with all requirements without delay, but in any event no later than the relevant expiration dates.

Additional Department of State waivers and suspensions shall expire on September 30, 2021.

The following waivers will expire on AUGUST 17, 2021:

- Retired/Inactive Professionals: Expedited reactivations for retired healthcare practitioners & licensees who went inactive or allowed their license to expire or lapse related to the following boards:

[State Board of Medicine, State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, State Board of Nursing, State Board of Pharmacy, State Board of Occupational Therapy, State Board of Physical Therapy, State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology,](#)

and the following specific license types:

[Behavior Specialists, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Expanded Function Dental Assistants, Funeral Directors, Nursing Home Administrators, Podiatrists, Practical Nurses \(LPNs\), Social Workers, Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians.](#)

- [State Board of Medicine Retired Professionals & Out-of-State Healthcare Practitioners](#): Waiver extending the State Board of Medicine renewal deadline, continuing license reactivations for retired professionals (Note: The passage of [Act 21 of 2021](#) extended the expiration date of temporary licenses issued to out-of-state healthcare practitioners to September 30, 2021.)
- [Funeral Directors](#) & [Resident Interns](#): The temporary suspension of the "10-Day Rule" for funeral directors and the automatic extension to 30 days during the emergency declaration, as well as an extension for funeral resident interns to have a gap in their training from 30 days to 120 days.
- [Dentists, Dental Hygiene](#), and [Clinical Examinations](#): Waivers allowing alternatives to live-patient clinical licensing exams for all candidates for licensure and allowing for the ADEX Manikin Examination as a viable alternative for dental hygienists taking their clinical examination. (Note: This waiver expired but the State Board of Dentistry provided an extension, allowing applicants to have the option to take the manikin examination offered through the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA), through December 2022.)
- [Respiratory Therapy Students](#): Waiver of Temporary Permit Rule for Respiratory Therapists.
- [Clinical Clerks](#): This waiver expands clinical clerk services beyond providing services to patients in assigned hospitals.
- [Crane Operators](#): This waiver allows crane operators more time to recertify.
- [Physical Therapists & Physical Therapist Assistants](#): This waiver allows students about to graduate to take licensure examination prior to graduation.
- [Occupational Therapists & Occupational Therapy Assistants](#): This waiver extends certain temporary licenses for OT's & OTA's.

The following waivers will expire on AUGUST 31, 2021:

- [Suspension of certain regulations for Nurse-Midwives](#), such as suspension of the requirement that a collaborative agreement be filed and suspension of re-entry requirements for nurse-midwives.
- [Pharmacists and Pharmacies](#), including waivers and suspensions related to nonresident pharmacies, pharmacy technician supervision for remote processing, expiration of CPR certification, and pharmacy closure notification requirements.
- [Occupational Therapy](#), [Physical Therapy](#), and [Speech Language Pathologists](#): These waivers expand the scope of practice that call for “Face-to-Face”, “In-Person”, or “On-Site” interaction.
- [Dentists](#), [Oral Surgeons](#), [Athletic Trainers](#), [Chiropractors](#), [Podiatrists](#): These waivers allow for additional medical providers to help with COVID-19 operations outside of their traditional scope of practice.
- [Massage Therapy Students](#): This waiver allows a limited number of massage therapy education hours to be earned via distance learning.
- [Chiropractors, Dentists, Optometrists, Pharmacists and Podiatrist who hold Clinical Lab Permits to Order and Administer COVID-19 Tests](#). This waiver allows qualified Chiropractors, Dentists, Optometrists, Pharmacists and Podiatrists to be authorized to order and administer COVID-19 tests.

The following waivers will expire on SEPTEMBER 15, 2021:

- [Suspension of Nurse Licensing Requirements](#), such as fees, extending renewal deadlines, allowing nursing school graduates to apply for the graduate permit without sitting for the licensure examination, waiving the English language proficiency testing requirement for RN and PN Temporary Practice Permits, waiving the 1,500 hours of education requirement for licensure by endorsement and licensure by examination, and waiving the education equivalency for clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) for certification by endorsement.

Note: Temporary Practice Permits issued to RNs & PNs applying for their Pennsylvania License by Endorsement on or before October 1, 2020, will expire on September 30, 2021.

- [Barbers, Cosmetologists, Accountants and Nursing Home Administrators](#): This waiver extends fixed timeframes to take or complete education, examination, or training in order to receive a license.
- [Barbers, Cosmetologists, Crane Operators, Nurses and Perfusionists](#): This waiver extends certain temporary permits and licenses for these professionals.
- [Perfusionists](#): This waiver extends temporary licenses for graduate perfusionists.
- [Graduate Medical Trainees](#): This waiver suspends certain administrative requirements for Graduate Medical Trainees.
- [Federal and Military Medical Personnel](#): This waiver suspends certain licensing requirements for military medical personnel, including members of the National Guard, during the coronavirus emergency.

APPENDIX A

ALREADY EXPIRED DOS COVID-19 WAIVERS

Extension of Various Renewal Deadlines due Between Apr. 30-June 30, 2020: [COVID-19 License Renewal Extensions for Nurses and Others](#)

Notaries/Physical Presence – Limited Real Estate Transactions: [Pennsylvania Provides Limited Suspension of In-person Regulatory Requirements for Notaries for Real Estate Transactions](#)

Automatic 90-Day Extension for Temp. Permits (Barber/Cosmetology); Waiver of Notarization Requirement for Quarterly Reports (Cosmo Schools): [Pennsylvania Waives Certain Requirements for Cosmetologists and Barbers During COVID-19 Emergency](#)

BCCO – Charity Renewal Deadline Extensions: [Pennsylvania Extends Renewal Dates for Charitable Organizations During Coronavirus Emergency](#)

Notaries – Power of Attorneys, Self-Executing Wills & Guardianship: [Pennsylvania Allows Remote Notarization of Some Documents During Coronavirus Emergency](#)

Lobbying Disclosure Quarterly Reports – Extension of Filing Deadline: [Department of State Extends Deadline for Filing Lobbying Disclosure Quarterly Reports](#)

Campaign Finance Reports – Temporary Waiver of Notarization: [Temporary Waiver of Notarization Requirement for Campaign Finance Reports and Statements](#)

CPR Certification (State Boards of Dentistry and Massage Therapy): [Department of State Temporarily Waives CPR Rules for Two Additional Professional Licensing Boards](#)

Post Graduate Year (PGY) Level 2 and 3 Advancement and Exam Results Reporting: [Pennsylvania Waives Certain Requirements for Graduate Medical Trainees During COVID-19 Emergency](#)

Extension of Various Renewal Deadlines due Between July 1-Aug. 31, 2020: [Pennsylvania Extends License Renewal Deadlines for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists](#)

BCCO: Association Filings (Business and Non-Profit): [Pennsylvania Gives Some Businesses More Time to File Corrected Paperwork During Coronavirus Emergency](#)

Extension of Additional Temporary Licenses and Permits That Are Due to Lapse or Expire While Licensing Exams and Centers are Closed: [Pennsylvania Extends Expiration Dates of Temporary Permits for Additional Licensees During COVID-19 Emergency](#)

Pennsylvania Extends Application Expiration Dates for Real Estate Appraisers: [Pennsylvania Extends Application Expiration Dates for Real Estate Appraisers](#)

Notaries: Extension – 45-Day Appointment Rule: [Pennsylvania Extends Appointment Deadlines for Notaries](#)

Election Day Staffing in Polling Places Under Act 12 of 2020

PENNDOT Driver's License Expiration Extension: [Pennsylvania Waives Certain Requirements for Acceptable ID for Notary Services During COVID-19 Emergency](#)

Extension for Members of Pennsylvania National Guard to Apply for and Cast Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots

Renewal Extensions for Chiro, LDNs and Pharmacists: [Pennsylvania Extends License Renewal Deadlines for Chiropractors, Dietitian-Nutritionists and Pharmacists](#)

Further Extension of Renewal Deadline for Barbers: [Pennsylvania Extends License Renewal Deadline for the State Board of Barber Examiners](#)

Landscape Architects - Suspension of 50% Limitation for Online CEs: [Pennsylvania Suspends Limitation on the Number of Online Continuing Education Hours for Landscape Architects](#)

Cosmetology Schools – Measures to Assist in Reopening: [Pennsylvania Waives Certain Requirements for Cosmetology Students and Cosmetology Schools During COVID-19 Emergency](#)

Charities Deadlines: [Pennsylvania Extends Deadline for Charitable Organization Registrations During COVID-19 Emergency](#)

Nurse Renewal Extension: [Pennsylvania Extends Renewal Deadlines for Certain Nursing Licenses](#)

CEs for Pollworker Licensees: [Certain Licensees Can Earn Continuing Education Credits for Serving as Poll Workers in November Election](#)

Practical Nurse Renewal Extension: [Pennsylvania Extends Renewal Deadlines for Licensed Practical Nurses](#)

Massage Therapy and Dentistry - CPR Certifications: [Pennsylvania Further Extends Temporary Waiver of Certain CPR Rules for State Board of Massage Therapy and State Board of Dentistry](#)

Pharmacy - CPR: [Pennsylvania Further Extends Temporary Waiver of Certain CPR Rules for Pharmacists](#)

Medical Board Renewal Extension: [Pennsylvania Extends License Renewal Deadline for State Board of Medicine](#)