



March 30, 2020

## **Pennsylvania Provides Short Term Licensure for Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons Licensed in Other States During Coronavirus Emergency**

In order to increase the number of health care practitioners available to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and to ensure continuity of patient care and services, Governor Wolf has granted the Department of State's request to allow osteopathic physicians or surgeons from other states or Canada to be issued a "short term camp license" in Pennsylvania as a means of temporary licensure.

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

### **Waiver details:**

For osteopathic physicians and surgeons licensed in other states or Canada, who wish to provide assistance in Pennsylvania related to the COVID-19 emergency, the Department of State will utilize the existing "short-term camp license," similar to the State Board of Medicine's temporary license. While short-term camp licenses already exist in statute and regulation, short-term camp licenses are limited to practice in camps in the Commonwealth and for a period not exceeding three (3) months. Exemptions and waivers, and any and all temporary licenses granted as a result of thereof, shall expire at the end of the emergency period.

- The Department of State requested that requirements and provisions for short-term camp licensure that require practice in a camp and that limit licensure to three (3) months or less, be waived effective immediately and extending for the duration of the emergency period.
- This Waiver will permit practice in facilities and wherever osteopathic physicians are needed in the Commonwealth. Further, osteopathic physicians issued a short-term camp license will be licensed until October 31, 2020 rather than be subject to a three (3) month limit.
- For an Osteopathic Physician licensed in a state other than Pennsylvania (or in Canada) who wishes to apply for a short-term camp license from the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to assist in the COVID-19 emergency: after it is determined that the applicant is licensed by and in good standing with his or her home state or Canada, the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) may waive other requirements such as the requirements for letters of good standing, criminal history record checks, National Practitioner Data Bank reports, the provisions regarding licensees being deemed "health care providers"

who conduct 50% or less of their health care business or practice within the Commonwealth, compliance with the malpractice insurance requirements of the Health Care Services Malpractice Act and any other requirement deemed by BPOA as “administrative” in nature.

- Additionally, any continuing education (C.E.) requirements that are ordinarily required for new applicants, including but not limited to training and education related to child abuse recognition and reporting, and training and education related to pain management, addiction and prescribing/dispensing opioids, are temporarily waived.
- For reactivations granted in connection with the need for additional health care practitioners created by the COVID-19 emergency, the Department requested to waive the application fees for short-term camp licenses. By waiving fees, the Department can accept the applications through email, rather than regular mail, and process them more quickly.

**Process:**

- To ensure the effectiveness of the waivers outlined here and streamline emergency processes, the health care facilities or systems seeking emergency issuance of licenses should provide BPOA and the applicable board a list of applicants they are sponsoring so these applications can be identified and processed as quickly as possible.
- These exemptions and waivers shall expire at the end of the emergency period.