



*This bulletin is to inform you of some important measures that the Governor and the Board of Nursing have taken to meet the expected increase in demand for nursing workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

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#### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-04**

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On March 18, 2020, Governor Parson signed Executive Order 20-14, which authorizes executive agencies to waive or suspend certain regulations or statutes, with approval from the Governor's Office, that interfere with the state's response to the spread of COVID-19. This allows agencies to request a waiver or suspension of regulations in an expedited process to help provide immediate health and safety relief. A complete list of rules that have been temporarily suspended can be found at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/suspended>.

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#### **MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF NURSING GUIDANCE TO NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

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The Missouri state Board of Nursing received multiple inquiries regarding COVID-19 and the potential impact to nursing schools. Academic partners are working with their leaders to understand the public health impact of COVID-19, and how alternative/remote classroom education (distance learning) may be provided. Management of students who are concurrently employed in the healthcare domain is also of concern. The health and well-being of patients, students and faculty will remain the priority focus.

For further COVID-19 information and guidance regarding nursing education programs, please review the Board's informational bulletin at <https://pr.mo.gov/boards/nursing/COVID.pdf>.

The leaders of 10 nursing organizations have issued a policy brief that calls for academic-practice partnerships between health care facilities and prelicensure registered nursing (RN) and practical nursing (PN) programs across the country during the COVID-19 crisis. You can find the entire policy brief at [https://www.ncsbn.org/Policy\\_Brief\\_US\\_Nursing\\_Leadership\\_COVID19.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/Policy_Brief_US_Nursing_Leadership_COVID19.pdf)

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#### **GRADUATE EXEMPTED PRACTICE EXTENTION**

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State Statute 335.081 (6)(b), RSMo allows a graduate nurse to practice after graduation pending the results of their first licensing exam or 90 days after graduation, whichever first occurs.

The licensing exam all graduate nurses take for a license is the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX®). The NCLEX® is administered in Pearson Vue test centers. All Pearson Vue test centers closed March 17, 2020. On March 25, 2020, NCLEX® testing resumed on a limited basis at 60 Pearson VUE Testing Centers with additional sites opening by March 28, 2020. Additional openings are dependent on many factors, including the CDC guidelines for social distancing, and screening of candidates and test center personnel

prior to being allowed to test. FAQs can be found on [ncsbn.org](http://ncsbn.org). Candidates can schedule testing appointments at [pearsonvue.com/nclex](http://pearsonvue.com/nclex).

The Board of Nursing has extended the graduate exempted practice period an additional 90 days for each nurse that will be taking the exam for the first-time and whose graduate exempted practice period expired or will expire during the period of time that Pearson Vue is not administering the NCLEX® exam.

Anyone who graduated on or after December 16, 2019, has not previously taken the NCLEX® and has not been denied a license is now authorized to practice as a graduate nurse pending the results of their first licensing exam or 180 days after graduation, whichever first occurs.

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## TEMPORARY PERMITS

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Rule 20 CSR 2200-4.020(6) indicates, “A temporary permit is valid for a six (6) month period.”

Fingerprint sites, nursing programs and boards of nursing are closed or operating on limited hours. The board recognizes this impedes the ability to request background checks, transcripts and license verifications. In order to allow for continued employment, the board automatically extended unexpired temporary permit an additional six (6) months. This does not require any action by the nurse. You can check the license expiration date of a temporary permit at [www.nursys.com](http://www.nursys.com) using QuickConfirm License Verification.

A nurse who holds a temporary permit should enroll As a Nurse in Nursys® e-Notify at [www.nursys.com/enotify](http://www.nursys.com/enotify) in order to receive permit expiration date reminders.

Employers should create an institution account at [www.nursys.com/enotify](http://www.nursys.com/enotify) and enroll that temporary permit holder in order to receive permit expiration date reminders. New temporary permits will be issued for a one (1) year period.

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## NURSE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

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Missouri is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). The NLC allows for RNs and LPNs to have one multistate license, with the ability to practice in person or via telehealth, in both their home state and other NLC states. There are currently 32 member states in the NLC and nurses from those states who hold a multistate license can easily respond to provide care across state lines.

At this time, licensure requirements have not been changed. You can verify a license at [www.nursys.com](http://www.nursys.com). Please refer to this fact sheet, [https://www.ncsbn.org/Authorization to Practice Step by step.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/Authorization%20to%20Practice%20Step%20by%20step.pdf), to determine if a nurse has a multistate license and where that nurse can practice.

There has been media attention about 1135 waivers authorized under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Please refer to this document, <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/1135-Waivers>, paying particular attention to the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet point. The waivers are for reimbursement only, not licensure.

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## MONITORED LICENSEES

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If you have been directed to self-quarantine due to diagnosis of or exposure to COVID-19, please DO NOT go to a drug screening collection site, meetings or other activities that could expose others. Submit your quarantine order documentation to [nursingcompliance@pr.mo.gov](mailto:nursingcompliance@pr.mo.gov). We will suspend daily check-ins and drug testing during this period.

In the event there is a state or regional quarantine/shelter-in-place order, please DO NOT go to a drug screening collection site. The sites likely will be closed. Email [nursingcompliance@pr.mo.gov](mailto:nursingcompliance@pr.mo.gov) of this information so we can suspend drug testing during that time. If you are required to submit to random drug screen, you are still required to check in daily with the third-party administrator (TPA). We will monitor the situation and restart drug testing when it is safe to do so. The only way you will know that drug testing has been resumed is by continuing with your daily check-ins.

If meetings or other activities are canceled please keep any records or documentation and report that by email to [nursingcompliance@pr.mo.gov](mailto:nursingcompliance@pr.mo.gov).

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## ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE (APRN) COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

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Rule 20 CSR 2200-4.200 (2)(B)(2), requires an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) and collaborating physician to practice within seventy-five (75) miles by road of one another.

This rule has been suspended to allow a physician and APRN to collaborate, regardless of where the providers are located. It is paramount that our health professionals be able to treat our citizens during this critical time of need. Physicians and nurses serving on the front lines of this outbreak are at risk of infection and some may be unable to treat patients due to quarantine. This will allow our highly skilled and educated health professionals to provide care to our communities when they need it most.

20 CSR 2200-4.200 Subsection (2)(C) is waived for the requirement that the APRN practice with the collaborating physician continuously present for at least a one- (1-) month period of time before practicing in a setting where the collaborating physician is not continuously present.

20 CSR 2200-4.200 (4)(E) is waived relating to the requirement that the collaborating physician or any other physician designated in the collaborative practice arrangement review the APRN's delivery of health care services through a review of a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the charts every fourteen (14) days. This waiver does not include the review of the percentage of cases where the APRN prescribed controlled substances.

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## PRESCRIBING/DISPENSING HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE, CHLOROQUINE AND AZITHROMYCIN

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The Missouri State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts and the Missouri Board of Pharmacy have recently received increased reports of prescriptions being issued for hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine and azithromycin for prophylactic purposes in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. As a response to protect the public health and safety, they have issued a joint statement on this issue. You can view their joint statement at <https://pr.mo.gov/boards/nursing/covid-19/JOINT-STATEMENT-III.pdf>.

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*The Board hopes these measures will help to address the increased demand of the nursing workforce in the state needed in response to COVID-19. For the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 and the Board, please visit our website frequently. New information will be posted at <https://pr.mo.gov/nursing-covid-19.asp> as it becomes available.*