



LHA COVID-19 ALERT



LHA COVID-19 C-Suite Alert: Governor Extends Relaxed Licensure Requirements for Certain Healthcare Professionals

Yesterday, Gov. John Bel Edwards officially adopted [52 JBE 2020](#) that, among other actions, extends until May 15 the following professional licensure requirements in Louisiana:

- **Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs):** 1) Collaborative practice agreement requirements are suspended during the pendency of this public health emergency; and 2) An APRN holding an active, unencumbered, and unrestricted license from another state, confirmed through the NURSYS System, can practice at a hospital in Louisiana without obtaining a Louisiana license upon the hospital notifying the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) within 10 days of the APRN starting to practice in Louisiana.
- **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs):** The requirements that a CRNA provide anesthesia care under the direction and supervision of a physician or dentist licensed to practice in Louisiana are temporarily suspended, provided that the certified registered nurse anesthetist is within his/her scope of practice and has the education, knowledge, skills, and ability to provide such anesthesia care and ancillary services without supervision or direction.
- **Registered Nurses:** 1) Any nurse that has an active, unrestricted, unencumbered license to practice registered nursing in any U.S. state, territory, or district, and has no charges pending against his/her license and the individual is not enrolled in an alternative to discipline program can practice nursing in Louisiana without the necessity of obtaining a Louisiana license; and 2) A registered nurse can administer anesthetic agents in certain settings in R.S. 37:935, upon the LSBN issuing an emergency rule that defines “critical care settings” for the purpose of providing care during the COVID-19 pandemic to include all healthcare settings in which anesthetic agents have to be administered to intubated patients.
- **Licensed Practical Nurses:** Any licensed practical nurse can practice practical nursing without a duly-issued license in the state of Louisiana so long as the individual is licensed to practice practical nursing in any U.S. state, territory or district.
- **Physicians (MD/DO) and Physician’s Assistants:** A physician or physician’s assistant who holds a full, unlimited, and unrestricted license to practice medicine in another state and who has unrestricted hospital credentials and privileges in any state, may practice at a hospital that is licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) upon the hospital verifying credentials and privileges providing notice to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME) within ten days of the physician or physician’s assistant from starting practice.
- **Respiratory Therapists:** A respiratory therapist who holds a full, unlimited, and unrestricted license to practice in another state and who has unrestricted hospital credentials in another state may practice at a hospital that is licensed by LDH upon the hospital verifying credentials and issuing a scope of hospital practice for each respiratory therapist. The hospital shall also provide notice to LSBME within ten days of each respiratory therapist starting practice at the hospital.

In response to the governor’s extension of the public health emergency provisions, the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy yesterday issued a [guidance notice](#) extending the expiration date of all its current waivers and other guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic to May 15, 2020.

Note: This Alert is being distributed on May 1, 2020 to **hospital C-Suite personnel** in the LHA database.

This and other local, state and national hospital-specific resources and guidance from trusted sources can be found on the LHA's COVID-19 [webpage](#).