

## **CLEAR Webinar: Regulatory Responses to COVID-19 Issues**

**Overview:** Regulatory Agency Discussion Concerning Emergency Processes for the COVID-19 situation

### **The Problem:**

- Lack of healthcare professionals active currently in the field to combat the spread/treatment of COVID-19
- Risks in maintaining everyday processes within the agencies and workplaces in general

### **Suggestions for a Plan of Action**

- Create a business continuity plan
  - Enabling staff to work from home that have equipment
  - Committing to flattening the curve
  - Identification of responsibilities per department and personal
  - Planning to continue the most essential functions, such as: Licensing, renewals, exams, internal/external communication, and regulatory enforcement

### **Implemented Processes in Healthcare Industry**

- Formation of a joint information council headed by the Colorado department of public health and environment, the office of emergency management, and the governor's office
- Governor implementing two initiatives to reduce the strain on the health care workforce to combat the virus's spread
- Bringing on provider that are qualified but not licensed to provide aid
- Guidance for healthcare professionals
- Coordinating with sister agencies to address impact
- Providing relief through teletherapy/telemedicine
- New Zealand has established a national register for return-to-practice volunteers to take some of the initial pressure off of the registration authorities
- Washington funds shifted to create more hospital space and virus testing
- Prioritizing licensing mobility to those looking for long-term work in Washington

### **How Contractors are Being Affected**

- In Colorado, some electrical and plumbing inspectors are being asked to self-quarantine to ensure safety
- Best practices are being reevaluated
- Regulations that need to be waived are being identified
- Risk assessment