



## COLORADO

Department of  
Regulatory Agencies

Division of Professions and Occupations

### Guidance for Healthcare Professionals Not Currently Licensed in Colorado

The State of Colorado is seeing an increasing demand for qualified healthcare professionals to assist in the testing, treatment, and care of patients with COVID-19. Under the direction of Governor Jared Polis, the Division of Professions and Occupations at the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) has conducted a review of existing licensing exemptions that allow for individuals in the healthcare field who either hold licenses in other states or who have allowed their license to expire in Colorado to immediately resume work within their scope of practice, provided their out-of-state or expired license is/was in good standing.

Healthcare providers who are being called upon to assist in caring for patients, but who are wondering if they can lawfully practice without a current Colorado license should consider the following exemptions and provisions that will allow them to immediately resume work in the field:

- **All Healthcare Providers**

- A provider with an expired or lapsed license, registration, or certification may operate within a 60 day grace period without being subject to penalties or fines under [C.R.S. §12-20-202\(1\)\(e\)](#). **Note:** Medical professionals must be aware of reimbursement and liability concerns beyond the date of license expiration.
- Any active military personnel, including any National Guard member or reservist, and any veteran who has not been dishonorably discharged may operate under an expired license, certificate, or registration of any active military personnel for a minimum of 30 days under [C.R.S. §12-20-202\(2\)\(b\)](#).
- A military spouse who has been relocated to Colorado by military orders, and has an active license in good standing from another state, can practice in most professions regulated by DPO for up to one year from the date they move before obtaining a Colorado license under [C.R.S. §12-20-304](#).

- **Physicians**

- A physician or physician in training may temporarily practice without a Colorado license or physician training license under the following provisions of [C.R.S. §12-240-107\(3\)](#):
- The physician is licensed and lawfully practicing medicine in another state or territory of the United States without restrictions or conditions;
- Does not otherwise have an established or regularly used medical staff membership or clinical privileges in Colorado;

- Is not party to any contract, agreement, or understanding to provide services in this state on a regular or routine basis.
- **Nurses**
  - A nurse who is part of the [Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact](#) (eNLC) can work in Colorado without the need to obtain a license. The eNLC nurse must notify the board within 30 days of their arrival, but can still work without a Colorado license as long they're a member of the eNLC compact.
- **Mental Health Providers**
  - Psychologists, social workers, addiction counselors, marriage family therapists, psychotherapists and professional counselors may practice in Colorado for a cumulative period of 20 days under [C.R.S. §12-245-217\(2\)\(e\)](#), as long as the services performed meet the individual's scope of practice.

**Please note:** The above provisions are those that currently exist in statute or through interstate compacts. In the coming days, the Division of Professions and Occupations will be announcing temporary measures that will allow for expedited licensing and expanded scope of practice to better address the increasing demands on Colorado's healthcare system. In the meantime, we appreciate your patience as we implement this course of action. We continue to encourage online applications for licensure through our website at <http://dpo.colorado.gov>.