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Changes to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing Functions Related to COVID-19

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing has taken measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19. The Board of Nursing's lobby area is open to public by appointment only with services continuing to be provided through online, email, phone, fax and mail. The Board of Nursing will respond to any questions as expeditiously as possible. If you are applying for a license, you are encouraged to submit required documents, such as CEUs, employment verification, or citizenship evidence, online to: obnwebmaster@nursing.ok.gov. Place the application type in the subject line for identification. While the Board staff regret any inconvenience resulting from the present circumstances, this action is being taken to limit possible exposure to COVID-19, protect the health of the public and agency employees, and ensure continuity of all agency operations.

Online services include licensure applications and renewals.

Email address: obnwebmaster@nursing.ok.gov

Phone: 405.962.1800 or 405.962.1832. If directed to leave a message, please leave your name, phone number and reason for call. Staff will return your call as soon as possible.

Fax: 405.962.1821

Mail: 2915 N. Classen Blvd, STE 524, OKC, OK 73106

OBN Guidance for Oklahoma Nursing Education Programs

Nursing Educational Programs have encountered interruption due to the pandemic. In effort to provide guidance for Oklahoma Nursing Education Programs, a document was created and can be located on the Oklahoma Board of Nursing website at <http://nursing.ok.gov/educprogocovid19.pdf>.

Emergency Rule Guidance Regarding Employment of Nursing Students and Graduates

Pursuant to Amended Executive Order 2020-13 issued during a declared health emergency and filed April 13, 2020, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing has promulgated emergency rules aimed at increasing opportunities for students and recent graduates of Board-approved nursing education programs to practice nursing in the State of Oklahoma.

As long as the declared health emergency is in effect, a nursing student currently enrolled in a Board-approved RN or LPN nursing education program may be employed consistent with the Board's *Employment of Nursing Students or Non-Licensed Graduates Guidelines*. The guidelines can be accessed at: <http://nursing.ok.gov/ed-guide.pdf>.

In addition, and as long as the declared health emergency is in effect, a non-licensed graduate of a Board-approved nursing education program may work, **under specified conditions**, as a non-licensed graduate under the direct supervision and direction of a licensed RN **in a hospital or nursing home** for a maximum of 180 days immediately following graduation from a Board-approved nursing education program. The specified conditions are listed in the emergency rules accessible at: <http://nursing.ok.gov/pandemicrules.pdf>. The Authorization to Test (ATT) email received from Pearson VUE will serve as the non-licensed graduate's Temporary Permit to practice nursing. Please note, if the graduate nurse fails the NCLEX exam then the Temporary Permit to practice nursing expires and is void.

Upon presentation of the ATT, the following must be validated:

1. the name of the individual;
2. the test validity dates (should the date allowed for testing expire, the ATT is no longer valid); and
3. the Nursing Regulatory Body jurisdiction MUST be Oklahoma.

A copy of an ATT email can be viewed at <http://nursing.ok.gov/Emergruleguidance.pdf>

If you have questions regarding the emergency rules, you may contact Jackye Ward at (405) 962-1809.

Licensure Reinstatement Pursuant to Executive Orders Related to the Pandemic

1. Pursuant to Third Amended Executive Order 2020-07, effective March 21, 2020, and subsequent Executive Orders, any individual whose Oklahoma nursing license is lapsed and cannot be reinstated due to Oklahoma Tax Commission noncompliance, may reinstate the nursing license as long as the Executive Order is in effect. Prior to reinstating Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensure, an applicant must hold a current license to practice as an RN in Oklahoma. Interested applicants may access the reinstatement applications at: <https://pay.apps.ok.gov/nursing/licensing/app/index.php> and complete the reinstatement application. **This is NOT a temporary license.** You will be issued a license in alignment with the Board's renewal cycle.
2. Pursuant to Third Amended Executive Order 2020-07, effective March 21, 2020, and subsequent Executive Orders, any individual who has an Oklahoma RN or LPN nursing license that has not been active for less than five years may be issued a **temporary single state nursing license**, if the individual meets all reinstatement requirements except continuing qualification for practice. There is no fee for the temporary license. The application with instructions can be located on the Oklahoma Board of Nursing website at <http://nursing.ok.gov/reinstEO-RNLPN.pdf>

Temporary License for Out of State Licensed Nurse

Pursuant to Amended Executive Order 2020-07, effective March 17, 2020, and subsequent Executive Orders issues, any individual who holds a current nursing license or recognition issued by another state, may apply for a temporary license to practice nursing in Oklahoma as long as the license/recognition in the other state is in good standing and as long as the Executive Order is in effect. Note this is only for temporary practice in Oklahoma and is not for multistate practice. The request can be located on the Oklahoma Board of Nursing website at <http://nursing.ok.gov/EMCtemplic.pdf>.

Oklahoma Health Alert Network

The Oklahoma State Department of Health Acute Disease Service uses four types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals. The four types of documents include Alerts, Advisories, Updates and Events. Many of the recent documents have provided information related to COVID-19 including screening tools, testing requirements and other resources.

Licensed nurses can request access to Oklahoma Health Alert Network (OK-HAN) to receive health alerts. Access will allow you to review all official Oklahoma Health Alerts. If you would like access, you may email the OK-HAN Coordinator at OKHAN@health.ok.gov.

2020 Nurse Corps Scholarship Program

The [2020 Nurse Corps Scholarship Program](#) application cycle is now open! Nurse Corps Scholarship Program staff will be available to address any questions regarding the program components, requirements, and obligations, as well as to support you as you complete the application process. Don't miss these unique opportunities! We encourage you to review the [2020-2021 Application and Program Guidance](#), which reviews the application process, requirements, and obligations for the program. Deadline is April 30, 2020.

Routine Reminders and Links

Reminder for Change of Name

Licensees must provide certified evidence (a copy of marriage license or court action) regarding any change of name within 30 days of the change. To change your name, you must complete the Name Change Request form. The form is available on the Board of Nursing website at: <http://nursing.ok.gov/namechange.pdf>

Reminder for Change of Address

Have you had a change of address? If so, you **must** notify the Board office in writing within 30 days of the change. You may submit a signed and dated statement with your license number or Social Security number, your full name, and your new address. Alternatively, you may complete your change of address on the Board's website: <https://pay.apps.ok.gov/nursing/renewal/login.php>

Notice to Licensees Submitting Online Renewals

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing online renewal system provides a convenient way for you to submit your renewal. However, it is essential that you protect the security of your online information. **Your PIN number, which is required for the renewal, should not be shared with anyone, not even with your spouse or support staff at your place of employment.** Your responsibility to renew your license **cannot** be delegated to another person. **You are the only person who can complete and submit the online renewal application!**

To access the online renewal: <https://pay.apps.ok.gov/nursing/renewal/index.php>

In preparing to submit your online renewal application, please visit the following link specific to **Continuing Qualifications for License Renewal Guidelines**: <http://nursing.ok.gov/cqlicenser renewal.pdf>

“This publication is issued by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing as authorized by the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act [59 O.S. § 567.1, et seq.] and is located at the following website: <http://nursing.ok.gov/pubs.html> This publication has been submitted in compliance with Section 3-114 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes.”

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