

Health Occupations Program Modifications

HEALTH REGULATION DIVISION, HEALTH OCCUPATIONS PROGRAM

ATTENTION

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Health Regulation Division (HRD) is temporarily modifying and delaying certain requirements for licensing, certification, and registration of occupations regulated by the Health Occupations Program.

These modifications will allow current licensees in good standing to practice during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency while protecting public safety. However, MDH will temporarily cease licensing activities for practitioners that are not supporting COVID-19 in health care facilities and critical access hospitals. This will allow existing staff to support MDH in other critical areas during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency.

Requirements Being Modified and Delayed

[Emergency Executive Order 20-32 \(PDF\)](https://www.leg.state.mn.us/archive/execorders/20-32.pdf) (<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/archive/execorders/20-32.pdf>) issued on April 8, 2020, allows the Commissioner of Health to temporarily delay, waive, or modify certain requirements so that providers can take necessary action to protect Minnesotans.

The following Minnesota Statutes related to speech language pathologists, audiologists, hearing instrument dispensers, doulas, body art technicians, and body art establishments are now being modified or delayed:

- Section 146B.02, subd. 2
- Section 146B.02, subd. 3
- Section 146B.02, subd. 8
- Section 146B.03, subd. 4
- Section 146B.03, subd. 6
- Section 146B.03, subd. 7
- Section 146B.04
- Section 146B.08
- Section 148.514
- Section 148.515, subd. 6
- Section 148.5191
- Section 148.996
- Chapter 153A

What HRD is Doing Differently

- Extend the license expiration date of March 31, 2020 for body art technicians; the license expiration date of May 31, 2020 for speech language pathologists and audiologists; the expiration date for licensees holding a temporary license; and the three-year expiration date for registered doulas.
- Delay:
 - administration of the hearing instrument dispenser examination
 - the issuance of initial doula registrations
 - hearing instrument dispenser certifications, and
 - licenses for body art technicians, guest artists, speech language pathologists, and audiologists.
- Delay inspection of body art establishments and the issuance of new body art establishments licenses and temporary event permits.
- Delay collection of penalty fees, waive late fees, and verification of license fees.

Implementation Guidance

MDH supports healthcare facilities' efforts to protect public health and offers the following guidance to assure safety during COVID-19-related restrictions.

- Practitioners who need an initial license to practice an occupation essential to providing care to patients in COVID-19 facilities or care settings may submit an application.
- MDH will issue a letter extending the expiration date of your license.
- MDH will investigate complaints based on allegation of public harm.

You must:

- Not provide, offer, or hold out to the public any services in a retail, clinical, or personal care service setting that are not permitted under [Executive Order 20-48 \(PDF\)](https://www.leg.state.mn.us/archive/execorders/20-48.pdf) (<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/archive/execorders/20-48.pdf>), or subsequent Orders.
- Submit your initial application for a license, certification, registration, or examination and the required fees until after the peacetime emergency ends.

Timeframe

Modifications and delays of licensing, certification, and registration procedures expire 60 days after termination of the emergency peacetime order.

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER HEALTH REGULATION DIVISION PROVISION:
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

Questions?

For information about occupations regulated by this Notification, email us at health.hop@state.mn.us. Or visit the [Health Occupations Program website \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/about/org/hrd/hop.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/about/org/hrd/hop.html).

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6/5/20

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4101.