

LARA/BPL Communication Regarding the Waiving of Examination Requirements for Licensure due to COVID-19

Revised August 13, 2020

On March 10, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer first declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19. Since then, the Governor has issued several executive orders to mitigate the spread of the virus. Executive Order 2020-150 (which replaced EO 2020-61 and EO 2020-30) specifically states:

*“9. Any law or regulation is temporarily suspended to the extent that it requires for any **health care professional**, as a condition of licensure, certification, registration, or the renewal of a license, certification, or registration:*

a. An exam, to the extent that the exam’s administration has been canceled while the emergency declaration is in effect.”

Due to the existing examination requirements for each health profession this temporary suspension of examination requirements is being handled differently based on each profession.

How do I apply for licensure?

Applicants can apply for licensure by visiting www.michigan.gov/bpl and then clicking on “Health Licensing (Apply/Renew)”. From there you will select your profession and be taken to the right place to apply. You will apply as you normally would for licensure. Department staff, when reviewing the application, will determine whether or not the exam’s administration has been canceled and if this requirement is temporarily waived in your case.

Be advised that the temporary waiver of examination requirements only applies to those examination requirements that cannot be met due to cancellation, unavailability, etc., and that you are responsible to meet the examination requirements for licensure if you have the ability to do so now or at any time in the future.

I already applied for licensure before the EO 2020-150 (or prior EO 2020-30 or EO 2020-61), can I be exempt from the exam now?

Only those who applied after the declared state of emergency on March 10 are eligible to have exam requirements temporarily waived.

How long is my license under EO 2020-150 (or prior EO 2020-30 or 2020-61) valid for?

In most cases, licenses issued under this order are only valid for 6 months from the date the state of emergency declaration expires or is terminated by the Governor of Michigan. Failure to meet all the licensure requirements outlined in state law or rules pertaining to your license by the end of this time period will result with your license being deemed null and void despite the expiration date that is reflected on the license issued.

How do I make sure my license remains valid after the state of emergency ends?

Again, licenses issued under this order will be deemed null and void unless all the requirements for licensure are met within six (6) months from the date the state the emergency declaration expires or is terminated by the Governor of Michigan. This includes any exam requirements that were waived in order to receive this temporary license. The requirements for licensure can be found in your profession's laws and rules available at www.michigan.gov/bpl.

What happens if I am licensed under EO 2020-150 (or prior EO 2020-30 or EO 2020-61), take the exam, and do not pass?

Professions vary on the number of times that you are able to take an exam for full licensure and those requirements will remain in effect after the state of emergency is lifted.

If you have previously tried and failed to take an exam for your profession you are not eligible for licensure under this order as they are for individuals who are unable to take the exam due to the emergency.

Am I still required to get my fingerprints taken for licensure?

There are currently sufficient fingerprint locations open for fingerprinting. Once you submit your completed licensure application, you will receive instructions on how to get your fingerprints taken. You will need the Requestor/Agency ID and Confirmation Number/Individual ID sent with the instructions to schedule your fingerprint appointment online.

Are exams still being waived under EO 2020-150 (or prior EO 2020-30 or 2020-61)?

Individuals who applied after 12:00 am on July 2, 2020, or thereafter, where the entity offering the exams is scheduling exams, those professions and applicants will not be eligible for an exam waiver. Those who applied prior to that date where the exam was waived, will need to meet all the other requirements for licensure in order to be approved to receive a license.

The Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) will continue to waive the licensing test requirement for professions where the testing center is not open or is not administering the licensing exam. Currently this is mainly dental professions, but you can contact the Bureau of Professional Licensing to confirm. BPL will also continue to waive the Part IV (practical) exam for Chiropractors.

Dental professions have until September 1, 2020, 11:59 pm to qualify for the exam waiver for their written if the administration of the exam was cancelled due to the emergency. Individuals who apply after 12:00 am on September 2, 2020 for a dental professional license will not be eligible for an exam waiver for their written exam. We will continue to waive practical exams where they are currently not being offered for dental professions.

For professions where the exam is still eligible to be waived, BPL will not have the legal authority to waive exam requirements for applications received after the emergency expires.

If you have any questions please contact the Bureau of Professional Licensing at BPLHelp@michigan.gov.