



COLORADO

Department of
Regulatory Agencies

Division of Professions and Occupations

Guidance for Pharmacists Re-Entering Workforce Amid COVID-19 Pandemic in Colorado

Background

The Governor issued [Executive Order D2020 003](#) on March 11, 2020, confirming his verbal order on March 10, 2020, declaring the existence of a Disaster Emergency, pursuant to [§ 24-33.5-704\(4\), Colorado Revised Statutes](#), in the State of Colorado and activating the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP).

On March 13, 2020, the Governor directed DORA to take steps to expand workforce capacity for the healthcare system to assist communities in addressing the Disaster Emergency, and to protect the public health and safety in light of the risks associated with COVID-19. [Executive Order D 2020 158](#) is the most current version of this order, issued on August 9, 2020.

Pursuant to § 24-33.5-704(7)(a), C.R.S., the Governor is authorized to temporarily suspend specific statutory or regulatory requirements if strict compliance would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the Disaster Emergency.

Existing Statutory Authority For Emergency Assistance

- A provider with an expired or lapsed license, registration, or certification may operate within a 60 day grace period from the expiration date 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](#).

DORA Actions to Implement Governor's Directive

In addition to foregoing existing statutory authority for emergency assistance by healthcare professionals, and in light of the Governor's directive to take action to

This information was last updated on August 31, 2020 at 2:00pm.

expand the healthcare workforce so as to address the Disaster Emergency, DORA has identified the following specific statutes and regulations as preventing, hindering, or delaying necessary action in coping with the Disaster Emergency identified in the Governor's Executive Order 20-003 and which therefore are **temporarily suspended** pursuant to § 24-33.5-704(7)(a), C.R.S.:

Pharmacy Practice Act and Pharmacy Board Rules

- Suspension of the ratio requirements for pharmacists/pharmacy technicians currently required under § 12-280-122, C.R.S.
- Suspension of Pharmacy Board Rule 5.00.60 and requirements around closure and notification, which deem a pharmacy to be closed if the compounding/dispensing area is not open for business the minimum number of hours specified in Rule 5.01.40(a).
- Suspension of Pharmacy Board Rule 5.01.40, which currently requires a minimum number of hours of operation for PDO's (prescription drug outlets).
- Suspension of Pharmacy Board Rule 6.00.30, which sets forth the qualifications for pharmacists to engage in drug therapy management and thereby restricts pharmacists from conducting screening tests for the Coronavirus, so as to ensure that pharmacists may conduct screening tests in pharmacies and other testing centers.
- Suspension of Pharmacy Board Rule 14.00.80(e) that currently requires consultant pharmacists to perform consultant pharmacist visits to inspect, and document the inspection, on a quarterly basis for the pharmacy they are managing.
- Suspension of Pharmacy Board Rule 17.00.30, which sets forth pharmacist qualifications for collaborative pharmacy practice, including the requirements for education.
- Suspension of Pharmacy Board Rule 19.01.10 regarding qualifications to give vaccines.
- Suspension of Pharmacy Board Rule 26.00.20(g) which outlines remote pharmacy practice requirements, thereby allowing remote practice without application.
- Suspension of Pharmacy Board Rule 21.20.90 (d)(e)(f) and requirements regarding Sterile Compounding and Shortages around garbing supplies so as to ensure compounding pharmacies have adequate supplies.
- Suspension of all requirements for pharmacy technician certification pursuant to § 12-280-115.5, C.R.S., and Pharmacy Board Rule 29.00.00 to allow additional time for certification.

