

## FAQ's Related to Executive Order 20-10

On 3/27/2020, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, signed an Executive Order which suspends several statutes and their implementing regulations from the Uniform Credentialing Act relating to specific health care providers, which are impairing the ability to access needed health care practitioners in Nebraska.

### Q1: Where can I find Governor Ricketts' Executive Order 20-10?

A: Governor Ricketts' website is [governor.nebraska.gov](http://governor.nebraska.gov). All executive orders can be found [here](#).

### Q2: What is an executive order?

A: An executive order is a rule or order issued by the Governor to a branch of State government that also has the force of law.

### Q3: How long does an executive order last?

A: Executive Order 20-10 applies while the declared public health emergency remains in effect and for 30 days after the lifting of the COVID-19 state of emergency.

### Q4: When does Executive Order 20-10 become effective?

A: Executive Order 20-10 is effective immediately upon the signature of the Governor. The Governor signed the order on 3/27/2020.

### Q5: What professions apply to Executive Order 20-10?

A: The following professions are listed in Executive Order 20-10:

- Advanced Practice Nursing
- Emergency Medical Services
- Medicine and Surgery
- Mental Health Practice
- Nursing
- Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery
- Perfusion
- Pharmacy
- Psychology
- Respiratory Care, and
- Surgical Assisting

### Q6: How does Executive Order 20-10 affect initial licensure?

A:

1. Reciprocity, Endorsement: Executive Order 20-10 temporarily allows individuals who are actively licensed in a U.S. state or territory, other than Nebraska, to practice in Nebraska without needing a Nebraska license. The license in the other State must be active, in good standing and free from disciplinary action.
  - **Emergency Medical Services**
    - Emergency Medical Responders (EMR)
    - Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)
    - Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT)
    - Paramedics
2. Criminal History Record Information check by fingerprint: Executive Order 20-10 allows emergency medical technicians, emergency care providers licensed under the Emergency Medical Services Practice Act, or any profession that is authorized to

prescribe controlled substances, to be issued an initial license before receiving the results of a national criminal history record information check by fingerprint. The applicant must:

- a. Submit a complete application and meet all other requirements of initial licensure,
- b. Submit fingerprints to the State Patrol; and
- c. Pass Department-conducted checks of the Nebraska Data Exchange Network (NDEN).

**Q7: How does Executive Order 20-10 affect healthcare providers who hold an inactive or expired Nebraska license?**

A: Executive Order 20-10 allows expired and inactive Nebraska license-holders to temporarily reinstate their expired or inactive licenses to active status without having to meet the continuing competency requirements for the time that the Executive Order is effective. The expired or inactive license-holder must submit a completed reinstatement application to the Department. This reinstatement process is only effective throughout the duration of Executive Order 20-10. Expired CPR cards will be accepted for temporary reinstatement.

**Q8: How does Executive Order 20-10 affect renewals?**

A: Licensees will still need to submit a renewal before the expiration date of their license. However, Executive Order 20-10 waives the continuing education requirements for the renewals that occur during the emergency for the following practice areas:

- **Emergency Medical Services**
  - Emergency Medical Responders (EMR)
  - Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)
  - Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT)
  - Paramedics

**Q9: What about renewals after the State Declaration of Public Health Emergency is lifted?**

A: After that time, credential holders will be subject to the regular requirements of renewal at the next regular renewal period.

**Q10: My profession is not renewing soon. Does Executive Order 20-10 apply to me?**

A: Maybe. If the State Declaration of Public Health Emergency continues until the time of expiration for your credential, then the suspension of renewal requirements included in Executive Order 20-10 will still be in effect.

**Q11: What about reinstatement of my inactive/expired credential? Do I still need continuing competency/education?**

A: The Department is suspending continuing competency/continuing education requirements for reinstatement of inactive/expired credentials during the State Declaration of Public Health Emergency and for 30 days afterward. Those providers that expired in 2019 can apply for permanent reinstatement with proof of required continuing education hours for renewal obtained in 2018 through date of reinstatement application and a current CPR card. Those providers that expired prior to 2019 or have not completed required continuing education hours can apply for temporary reinstatement. Reinstatement fees are waived during the executive order.

**Q12: Can I submit my application electronically?**

A: Yes. Submit to [dhhs.emslicensing@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.emslicensing@nebraska.gov) .

**Q13: What about supporting documents? Can they be sent electronically?**

A: Yes. Supporting documents can be submitted to the Department directly from the source. Submit to [dhhs.emslicensing@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.emslicensing@nebraska.gov) .

Q14: Do I still need to submit my fingerprints for licensure? (Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics)

A: Yes. You will still need to submit fingerprints to the Nebraska State Patrol for the purposes of running a criminal background check, but a license can be issued to you before the results of the criminal background check have been received by the Department. Licenses are subject to any findings of the criminal background check, once completed.

Q15: I'm a recent graduate, but I can't take my licensure examination because the testing centers are closed. Can I get a temporary license until I can take my licensure examination?

A: Executive Order 20-10 allows applicants for licensure to be issued a provisional license pending successful examination results (cognitive or psychomotor) or the duration of the emergency, whichever is shorter. All other requirements of licensure must still be met. Provisional licenses will expire once examination results are available or one year from the date of issuance, whichever occurs first. Provisional certification will be offered by the National Registry of EMTs and will be required for initial application.

Q16: My profession limits the number of hours of online/home study continuing education, but in-person continuing education is not available at this time. My profession is not listed in Executive Order 20-10. Can I obtain all of my continuing education hours for renewal or reinstatement online or by home study?

A: The Department will not enforce any limit on the number of continuing education hours obtained online or by home study for renewal or reinstatement during the State Declaration of Public Health Emergency. The number of distributive hours completed during the executive order will be honored at renewal should the executive order be lifted at time of renewal.