

FAQs Related to Executive Order 22-05

Q: Is renewal of Medication Aide registrations impacted by EO 22-05?

A: No. Medication Aide registration renewals had previously been temporarily deferred by EO 21-12; however, that deferral expired on March 31, 2022, based on EO 22-02. The Licensure Unit has resumed and will continue to renew Medication Aide registrations.

Q: How long will Executive Order 22-05 last?

A: Executive Order 22-05 will end at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2022.

Q: I was not able to complete my continuing competency hours for renewal. What can be done?

A: The Department may waive continuing competency requirements, in whole or in part, when a credential holder submits documentation that “circumstances beyond his or her control have prevented completion of such requirements.” Waivers may be considered for circumstances lasting longer than 30 consecutive days that DHHS determines are beyond the credential holder’s control. Such circumstances can include, but are not limited to, a shortage of available continuing competency courses resulting from an officially declared state of emergency.

Q: How do I apply for a waiver of continuing competency requirements due to circumstances beyond my control?

A: At the time of renewal, credential holders may apply for a waiver of the continuing competency requirements on the renewal application. Persons applying must provide documentation supporting the reasons why they could not complete the required hours. The Department will review requests, and if approved, the credential will be renewed. If denied, the credential holder will be notified. Credential holders cannot apply for a waiver until they receive the renewal notice; submit renewal waivers and documentation as early as possible to allow for review.

Q: My credential expires after the declared emergency has been lifted. I was not able to complete the continuing competency requirements due to circumstances beyond my control. Can I still renew my license on active status?

A: Yes, you may qualify for a waiver of the continuing competency hours due to “circumstances beyond [your] control” that prevented the completion of such requirements, as explained in the prior question.

Q: I obtained the required continuing education hours for renewal of my professional license, but now I see that the hours may be waived. Can I carry-over the hours that I earned for the next renewal period?

A: Hours earned for renewal are subject to a specific time frame of 24 month immediately preceding the expiration date of a credential. Some professions may have regulations which allow for carry-over; however, most do not.

Q: My profession limits the number of hours of online/home study continuing education, but in-person continuing education is not available at this time. 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 of any type of license during the State Declaration of Public Health Emergency. The Department will be as flexible as possible for renewals that take place following the emergency. If licensees obtained online or home study CE hours during the emergency because in-person courses were not available, the Department will accept those CE hours even if the renewal (expiration date) for that profession takes place after the emergency has ended. Communication will be sent to licensees once any subsequent renewal period begins so that licensees know when the limits for online or home study CE are back in place.

Q: Can I practice in Nebraska under my credential from another U.S. state or territory?

A: The executive order temporarily allows individuals who are actively credentialed in a U.S. state or territory, other than Nebraska, to practice in Nebraska *without being issued a Nebraska credential*. The credential in the other State must be active, in good standing, and free from disciplinary action. Once the executive order ends, continued practice would require the issuance of a Nebraska license. This only applies to people credentialed to engage in the practice of:

- Advanced Practice Nursing
 - Certified Nurse Midwives
 - Nurse Practitioners
 - Clinical Nurse Specialists
 - Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- Alcohol and Drug Counseling
 - Alcohol and Drug Counselors
 - Provisional Alcohol and Drug Counselors
- Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
 - Audiologist
 - Speech-Language Pathologist
- Emergency Medical Services
 - Emergency Medical Responders
 - Emergency Medical Technicians
 - Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians
 - Paramedics
- Medication Aides
- Medical Nutrition Therapy
 - Medical Nutrition Therapists
- Medical Radiography

- Medical Radiographer
- Limited Medical Radiographer
- Medicine and Surgery
 - Physicians
 - Physician Assistants
 - Acupuncturists
- Mental Health Practice
 - Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioners
 - Licensed Mental Health Practitioners
 - Provisional Licensed Mental Health Practitioners
 - Social Workers
- Nursing
 - Registered Nurses
 - Licensed Practical Nurses
- Nursing Home Administration
 - Nursing Home Administrators
- Occupational Therapy
 - Occupational Therapist
 - Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery
 - Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
- Perfusion
 - Perfusionists
- Pharmacy
 - Pharmacists
 - Pharmacist Interns
 - Pharmacy Technicians
- Physical Therapy
 - Physical Therapist
 - Physical Therapist Assistant
- Psychology
 - Psychologists
 - Provisional Licensed Psychologists
- Respiratory Care
 - Respiratory Care Practitioners
- Surgical Assisting
 - Surgical First Assistants

Q: Can provisional licenses be issued pending successful examination results?

A: Yes. The Department may issue a provisional credential to applicants in the following professions who meet all other requirements for the credential and have registered for the examination: advanced practice nursing, chiropractic, dentistry, dental hygiene, emergency medical services, hearing instrument dispensing and fitting, massage therapy, medicine and surgery, mental health practice, nursing, osteopathy, perfusion, pharmacy, psychology, respiratory care, surgical assisting, or holding themselves out as social workers, or dialysis patient care technicians.

The Department may issue time-limited provisional licenses to applicants for physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing home administration, audiology and speech-language pathology, medical radiography, alcohol and drug counseling, and medical nutrition therapy pending successful examination results.

Q: My profession requires that I complete in-person or hands-on training, courses, or examinations to be issued a license, but these activities are unavailable or limited in number. Is online an option?

A: Executive Order No. 22-05 temporarily defers provisions of the UCA and its implementing regulations that require credential holders or students seeking credentials to complete courses or training, or take examinations, in person solely in order to permit education, training, and testing to continue using electronic or remote technology when that is possible. This applies to the following professions: advanced practice nursing, alcohol and drug counseling, audiology, speech-language pathology, chiropractic, dentistry, dental hygiene, emergency medical services, hearing instrument dispensing and fitting, massage therapy, medical nutrition therapy, medical radiography, medicine and surgery, mental health practice, nursing, nursing home administration, occupational therapy, osteopathy, perfusion, pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology, respiratory care, surgical assisting, or holding themselves out as social workers, or dialysis patient care technicians.

Q: My profession requires that I have onsite, face-to-face, or direct supervision to complete certain work or training in order to get a credential. Is remote supervision an option?

A: Executive Order No. 22-05 allows onsite, face-to-face, or direct supervision to be temporarily deferred in order to give supervisors the option of using remote supervision when they deem such supervision is appropriate. This applies to the following professions, insofar as they may require onsite, face-to-face, or direct supervision: advanced practice nursing, alcohol and drug counseling, audiology, speech-language pathology, chiropractic, dentistry, dental hygiene, emergency medical services, hearing instrument dispensing and fitting, massage therapy, medical nutrition therapy, medical radiography, medicine and surgery, mental health practice, nursing, nursing home administration, occupational therapy, osteopathy, perfusion, pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology, respiratory care, surgical assisting, or holding themselves out as social workers, or dialysis patient care technicians.

Q: My profession requires that I have a practice agreement. Is this still required?

A: Executive Order No. 22-05 temporarily defers requirements for practice agreements for those in the following professions, insofar as they may require practice agreements: advanced practice nursing, alcohol and drug counseling, audiology, speech-language pathology, chiropractic, dentistry, dental hygiene, emergency medical services, hearing instrument dispensing and fitting, massage therapy, medical nutrition therapy, medical radiography, medicine and surgery, mental health practice, nursing, nursing home administration, occupational therapy, osteopathy, perfusion, pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology, respiratory care, surgical assisting, or holding themselves out as social workers, or dialysis patient care technicians.

Q: I'm a Provisional Mental Health Practitioner, and I need to obtain direct client contact hours. Must client hours be obtained in person?

A: Provisional Mental Health Practitioners may obtain direct client contact hours by telehealth, including by telephone until December 31, 2022.

Q: My credential requires a national certification. What happens if I can't get that?

A: The provisions of the UCA and its implementing regulations requiring that persons seeking to obtain or renew credentials as advanced practice registered nurses or pharmacy technicians complete a national certification are temporarily deferred until the next renewal period.

Q: My profession requires me to have field clinical time to complete initial training. Is this still required?

A: Executive Order No. 22-05 temporarily defers the field training hours for Emergency Medical Technicians and Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians when all other course requirements have been completed and with documentation from the instructor or training agency that field experience is not an option.