



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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**Temporary Emergency Reactivation of
Retired Healthcare Professionals' Licenses
in Support of New Jersey's COVID-19 Response**

Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

April 3, 2020

Providers are encouraged to check their licensing board [website](#) for additional information.

The State of New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub is [here](#).
The NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Information Hub for Health Care Providers is [here](#).

Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is the disease caused by a new coronavirus first detected in humans in December 2019. The State of New Jersey has implemented extraordinary measures to combat the spread of the disease, including through actions taken by Governor Philip D. Murphy to expand the capacity of New Jersey’s healthcare system to meet increased demand.

On April 1, 2020, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 112, which makes it easier for New Jersey healthcare professionals who retired within the last five years to reactivate their licenses on a temporary, emergent basis. This document includes basic information retired New Jersey healthcare professionals need in order to take advantage of this opportunity to help their fellow New Jersey residents during the current emergency related to COVID-19.

The Division of Consumer Affairs has created a Temporary Emergency Reactivation Program for eligible retirees. Interested retirees who are eligible for temporary emergency reactivation of their licenses—including physicians, nurses, and respiratory care therapists, among others—can apply on the Division of Consumer Affairs website [here](#). The Division has waived application fees, so it is free to apply, and aims to process each application within one day of submission.

After license reactivation, you will be directed to the Department of Health’s [portal](#) for healthcare professionals who are willing and able to support New Jersey’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Department of Health will connect you with opportunities where your skills are needed. You will need to input your license number and other basic information into that site.

If you are interested in joining this fight, read our Frequently Asked Questions below and then apply [here](#).

Q: I’ve been retired for a few years. Can I apply for reactivation under the Temporary Emergency Reactivation Program?

The Temporary Emergency Reactivation Program is open only to retirees whose licenses have been expired or inactive five years or less.

Retirees who are not eligible for the Program can still apply to reactivate their licenses through the ordinary reactivation process.

Q: How is the process of reactivating a license through the Temporary Emergency Reactivation Program different from the ordinary process for reactivating a license?

The following requirements from the ordinary reactivation process are not required as part of the Temporary Emergency Reactivation Program. Because we are waiving these requirements, the process is faster and free.

- Payment of application and reinstatement fees
- Certification concerning continuing education
- Certification of employment during retirement
- Completion of a full criminal history background check
- Medical malpractice insurance requirements (for licensees of the Board of Medical Examiners)

Q: Which professions are included in the Temporary Emergency Reactivation Program?

The Temporary Emergency Reactivation Program is currently open to retirees from the following professions. If your profession is not listed below, please check back, as eligibility requirements may change.

- Physicians
- Physician Assistants
- Midwives
- Advanced Practice Nurses
- Registered Professional Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Respiratory Care Therapists
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Professional Counselors
- Rehabilitation Counselors
- Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors
- State Certified Psychoanalysts
- Psychologists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Licensed Social Workers
- Certified Social Workers

Q: What information will I need to apply for temporary emergency reactivation of my license?

To apply, you'll need to log in to the Division's renewal system with the name you used when your license was active. The system will ask for password; if you don't remember it you'll be able to reset your password in order to log in.

Once you are logged in, the application form will ask you to provide the following additional information:

- Licensee Name
- Social Security Number
- Gender
- Date of Birth
- Ethnicity
- Citizenship Status
- Address
- Criminal History Information
- Professional Discipline History Information

Q: My license is in suspended status due to a disciplinary order entered by my professional board. Can I still participate?

You are not eligible for this program if your ability to practice your profession is currently restricted in any way in any state; if you were subject to disciplinary restrictions when your license became inactive or expired; if you surrendered your license in the face of an investigation; or if you have been arrested or convicted of a crime since your license became inactive or expired. If these restrictions apply to you and you still wish to have your board consider your application, please submit a request to the relevant board.

Applicants for the Temporary Emergency Reactivation Program are required to submit information that may result in the denial of their application or the cancelation of the reactivation, as a matter of the DCA Director's discretion. Such information also may delay the Division's processing of an application.

Q: I was arrested or convicted of a crime after my license became inactive/expired. Can I still participate?

You are not eligible for this program if your ability to practice your profession is currently restricted in any way in any state; if you were subject to disciplinary restrictions when your license became inactive or expired; if you surrendered your license in the face of an investigation; or if you have been arrested or convicted of a crime since your license became inactive or expired. If these restrictions apply to you and you still wish to have your board consider your application, please submit a request to the relevant board.

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Q: I am restricted from practicing based on an order entered in another state. Can I still participate?

You are not eligible for this program if your ability to practice your profession is currently restricted in any way in any state; if you were subject to disciplinary restrictions when your license became inactive or expired; if you surrendered your license in the face of an investigation; or if you have been arrested or convicted of a crime since your license became inactive or expired. If these restrictions apply to you and you still wish to have your board consider your application, please submit a request to the relevant board.

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Q: How long will it take to get a license, and what will my license look like?

If your application is complete and you qualify for reactivation, DCA's goal is to reactivate your license within 24 hours of receiving your application. Your license will come in the form of an email confirmation that your license is active. You won't receive a paper license but your license number will be displayed as "active" on the Division's licensure look up system.

Processing may take longer for some applicants.

Q: What are the potential financial consequences of reactivating my license?

Returning to practice – on a paid or voluntary basis – may have significant financial consequences for you and your family. These may include, but may not be limited to, consequences affecting your tax obligations, pension, and benefits. The Division is not able to address individuals' unique circumstances, so we encourage you to carefully consider the potential impact on you and your family and to discuss your options with others who are able to provide you with individualized advice.

Q: I don't have medical malpractice liability insurance or other insurance. Should I get coverage?

The Division recommends that you secure suitable insurance, although it is not required as a prerequisite to reactivating your license. Certain healthcare professionals involved in the response to COVID-19 may have some protections from liability under state law, but the protections are limited, and may not cover any of the costs that you incur in defending yourself in litigation.

Q: How long will my license be valid?

Licenses reactivated under this program will be valid until the end of the State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency declared by Governor Murphy in Executive Order 103, whichever is longer.

Q: Will the Division arrange for employment or volunteer opportunities?

The Division and professional boards are not arranging for employment or volunteer opportunities. Your reactivated license will allow you to seek employment and volunteer opportunities independently. Additionally, the Department of Health has created a portal to match providers with opportunities to support the State's response to COVID-19. After license reactivation, be sure to visit the Department of Health's portal for interested healthcare professionals [here](#).