

April 2020

IDPH Information Notice 2020-01: Permit to Practice as a Limited Radiologic Technologist with Categories of Chest, Spine, Extremities, Shoulder, Pediatric for 2nd Year Radiography Students

ADDRESSEES:

New graduates from radiology programs impacted by the closure of the Pearson VUE testing centers which could cause the delay in access to take the ARRT Radiography Examination which is required to obtain an initial Iowa permit to practice.

PURPOSE:

The Bureau of Radiological Health has received questions and requests for guidance on how these new graduates can be effectively integrated into the healthcare system to assist with surge capacity needs in radiology departments. This notice provides guidance on how new graduates from radiology programs can apply for limited radiography permits to practice in order to provide radiology examinations in the limited scope (excluding CT, fluoroscopy, mammography, and other advanced procedures) during the time when the ARRT examination is unavailable.

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES:

Proclamations of Disaster Emergency issued by Governor Kim Reynolds on March 22, 2020, and April 2, 2020, temporarily suspend regulatory provisions of Iowa Code 136C and the Department's rules implementing that chapter which relate to continuing education requirements and licensure renewal requirements, until April 30, 2020. Agencies are directed to provide guidance to licensees related to any changes in requirements for licensing that will be implemented under this proclamation authority. Please note that all regulatory requirements remain in effect unless changes or waivers are specifically outlined by the Iowa Department of Public Health in guidance or rulemaking. The guidance in this information notice outlines the specific rules with waivers implemented pursuant to the suspension authorized by the Proclamations. The Department is continuously monitoring the COVID-19 situation and additional guidance will be issued as the COVID-19 situation changes or additional direction is provided in future proclamations. On March 17, 2020, Pearson VUE Testing Centers released the following statement:

The COVID-19 impact is presenting us with extraordinary challenges in providing a safe working and testing environment for our employees and candidates. In addition, we've started to run into difficulty supplying our test centers with the necessary hygienic items, such as hand sanitizer, disinfectant, and tissues.

In light of the recent announcements by President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau, continued government guidance, and with careful consideration, we have decided to temporarily close our company-owned U.S. and Canada-based Pearson Professional Centers (PPCs) starting March 16, 2020 for at least 30 days until April 16, or whenever conditions are deemed safe to re-open. We will begin candidate cancellation notifications in the afternoon of March 16 (CDT), which will provide instructions for scheduling new appointments on or after April 16, 2020.

This could delay a graduating radiography student from taking their ARRT Radiography exam upon completion of their radiography schooling. This examination is required to obtain an initial radiography permit to practice.

Iowa Administrative Rules waived in accordance with the guidance described below:

- 641—42.5 (1)“c” Submit a nonrefundable \$100 application fee.
- 641—42.9 (2) “e”(3) Each individual making application to take an examination as a limited radiologic technologist in 42.9(2)“e”(1)“1” or “3” must submit an application and nonrefundable fee of \$200 to the department each time the individual takes the examination.
- 641-42.9(2)“e” Submit proof of completion of formal education and a nonrefundable \$40 amendment fee to add shoulder or pediatric category to an existing limited radiologic technologist permit. No examination is required.

All other Iowa Administrative Rules not described in this guidance remain in effect.

The Agency’s guidance is as follows:

- All Iowa 2nd year radiography students will have the opportunity, if they choose, to obtain a Permit to Practice as a Limited Radiologic Technologist with Categories of Chest, Spine, Extremities.
- To obtain this Permit the applications must meet the following requirements:
 - Be currently enrolled as a 2nd Year Radiography Student in an IDPH approved Radiography School in Iowa.
 - Submit the following completed forms:
 - Final Classroom Evaluation Form – Completed by Program Director
 - Initial Clinical Site Form(s) – Completed by Clinical Coordinator and/or Clinical Instructor(s)
 - Clinical Competency Statement Form – Completed by Clinical Coordinator
 - Limited Radiography Exam Application
 - Agreement from Program Director that they are willing to be the Test Proctor for the online IDPH Limited Radiography Examination.
 - Receive a minimal score of at least 70% on the IDPH Limited Radiography Examination.
 - Upon passing the IDPH Limited Radiography Examination, complete the Limited Permit to Practice Application.
- Application fees for the Examination will be waived. There will be a non-refundable fee of \$100 required for the New Limited Permit to Practice.
- After the student is able to take the ARRT Radiography Exam and passes that exam they may change their Permit from the Limited to the General Radiographer at no additional charge as long as the change is made before January 1, 2021.

All written requests described above shall be electronically mailed to adpereg@idph.iowa.gov.

This IN requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please contact this office.

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