



Iowa Board of Podiatry Guidance Related to Governor Reynold's Proclamations & COVID-19

On March 22, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Emergency Disaster. In this Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspended a number of regulatory provisions applicable to a number of professions, including those professions regulated by the Board of Podiatry. The Proclamation eases administrative rules relating to renewal of licenses, continuing education, and background checks. *The suspension of rules identified in the Proclamation is effective through April 16, 2020, unless the Governor terminates or extends the Proclamation.* As required in the Proclamation, the Board of Podiatry issues this guidance relating to the temporary suspension of administrative rules in these areas:

License Renewal

Licenses are not scheduled to expire until June 30, 2020. The Board does not anticipate the Proclamation having an impact on license renewal. In the event the Proclamation is extended in a manner that does impact license renewal, the Board will send additional information at that time.

Continuing Education

Any Board rules that require licensees to complete any continuing education in-person are waived for the upcoming renewal. All continuing education required for renewal of licenses expiring on June 30, 2020, may be completed online.

On March 26, 2020, Governor Reynolds issued a new Proclamation of Emergency Disaster that prohibits nonessential medical services effective at 5:00 p.m. on March 27, 2020, and continuing through 11:59 p.m. on April 16, 2020. The full text of this section of the Proclamation is copied below.

SECTION ONE. Pursuant to Iowa Code § 135.144(3), and in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Public Health, unless otherwise modified by subsequent proclamation or order of the Iowa Department of Public Health, I hereby order that effective at 5:00 p.m. on March 27, 2020, and continuing until this disaster proclamation expires:

A. All nonessential or elective surgeries and procedures that utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) must not be conducted by any hospital, outpatient surgery provider, or outpatient procedure provider, whether public, private, or nonprofit.

B. A nonessential surgery or procedure is one that can be delayed without undue risk to the current or future health of a patient, considering all appropriate factors including, but not limited to any: (1) threat to the patient's life if the surgery or procedure is not performed; (2) threat of permanent dysfunction of an extremity or organ system; (3) risk of metastasis or progression of staging; and (4) risk of rapidly worsening to severe symptoms.

C. Each hospital, outpatient surgery provider, and outpatient procedure provider shall limit all nonessential individuals in surgery and procedure suites and patient care areas where

PPE is required. Only individuals essential to conducting the surgery or procedure shall be present in such areas.

D. Each hospital, outpatient surgery provider, and outpatient procedure provider shall establish an internal governance structure to ensure that the principles outlined above are followed.