



Iowa Board of Massage Therapy Related to Governor Reynold's Proclamations & COVID-19

Governor Kim Reynolds has issued a Proclamation of Emergency Disaster. In this Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspended a number of regulatory provisions applicable to various professions. The full text of the Proclamation is available on the Governor's website. The Board issues the following guidance regarding the Proclamation:

License Renewal

The Board office is still processing renewals at this time. Licensees are not required to renew for the duration of the Proclamation. Licensees who wish to renew as scheduled are encouraged to renew using the online system. You will have 60 days after the Proclamation expires to renew your license without penalty.

Continuing Education

Licensees have until June 30, 2021 to complete the continuing education required for license renewal for any license set to expire in 2020. Licensees may renew prior to completing the required continuing education. In order to complete the renewal application, licensees will need to attest to completion of the required continuing education. Licensees should attest to the completion of the required hours if they have completed, or plan to complete, the required continuing education by June 30, 2021.

Any Board rules that require licensees to complete any continuing education in-person are waived for this license renewal, regardless of when the license is set to expire.

Reopening of Massage Therapy Establishments

Beginning at 5:00 a.m. on May 15, 2020, massage therapy establishments that were previously ordered closed may reopen, but only to the extent that the establishments take reasonable measures under the circumstances of each establishment to ensure social distancing of employees and clients, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with the guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health. Establishments must abide by such reasonable measures until the Proclamation expires or is terminated.

The Department's guidance for reopening businesses during this public health emergency, and other guidance for reducing the spread of COVID-19, may be found here: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Business-and-Organizations>. We strongly encourage all licensees to periodically revisit the Board's website and the Department's website to ensure they are aware of the most up-to-date guidance and information.

Protecting the health and safety of yourself and your clients is of paramount importance. Below is an additional list of resources to assist massage therapists with addressing the COVID-19 crisis. Please note that in the event any of the resources below conflict with any state orders, laws, or regulations, the state orders, laws, or regulations must be followed.

- Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals: <https://www.abmp.com/covid-updates>

- American Massage Therapy Association: <https://www.amtamassage.org/about/news/covid-19-resources-for-massage-therapists/>
- International Spa Association: <https://experienceispa.com/covid-19-info/2-uncategorised/400-reopening-resources>
- CDC Practice Preparedness Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-resources.html>
- CDC Information for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>