



Iowa Board of Optometry Guidelines 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.

Continuing Education

Licensees have until June 30, 2021 to complete the continuing education required for license renewal. 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.

Licensees are reminded that all of the required continuing education may be obtained through distance education.

Additional information

1. The Iowa Board of Optometry, in accordance with the Governor's Proclamation, recommends all practicing licensees who remain open to observe appropriate precautions. Conduct yourself, your staff, and your office in accordance with social distancing, personal protective equipment, limiting the number of persons within your practice, frequently sanitize and disinfect, and only see urgent or emergent patients.
2. To the extent any provision in this Guidance is inconsistent with a provision in the Proclamation, the provision of the Proclamation shall prevail.
1. Unless specifically included or addressed within this Guidance, all other regulatory requirements enforced or administered by the Board shall remain in full force and effect. In addition, other than the requirements specifically identified and addressed in this Guidance, nothing contained in this Guidance shall be construed as an exemption from any other portion of the Iowa Code or Iowa Administrative Code.

2. If additional allowances from Board rules outside of the scope of the rules or issues addressed by this Guidance are required due to circumstances relating to COVID-19, such allowances shall be handled as individual petitions for waiver or variance from Board rules.
3. The provisions of this Guidance shall be effective immediately, and shall extend coterminous with the Proclamation, including any extensions thereto, unless and solely to the extent otherwise stated herein or unless otherwise extended by subsequent order of the Board in a manner consistent with and permitted by the Proclamation.