



## Iowa Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology Guidance 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.

### **Supervised Clinical Training Requirements**

The Proclamation temporarily suspended the administrative rules requiring completion of 400 supervised clinical hours within nine months. This means temporary clinical license holders who experienced a disruption of hours during their nine months' clinical experience due to COVID-19, and whose license is scheduled to expire while the Proclamation is in effect, are not required to renew their licenses during the duration of the Proclamation. Temporary clinical license holders will have thirty (30) days after the Proclamation expires to and complete any remaining clinical hours and renew their licenses without penalty. Licensees are encouraged to contact the Board if they have questions about obtaining their 400 hours of supervised clinical training.

### **Telehealth**

The Proclamation temporarily suspended regulatory provisions establishing preconditions, limitations, or restrictions on the provision of telehealth or telemedicine services, and other administrative rules that require face-to-face interactions with health care providers. Please note that an Iowa license is still required to provide services to patients located in Iowa, and any HIPAA provisions that have not been waived by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) or the Centers for

Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) must still be complied with when providing telehealth services during this emergency.

The Proclamation temporarily suspended regulatory provisions that required Iowa licensure for providing speech pathology services to patients located in Iowa. Accordingly, a speech pathologist who holds an active license in another state may provide telehealth or electronic services to patients located in Iowa. Please note that any HIPAA provisions that have not been waived by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) must still be complied with when providing telehealth services during this emergency. Additionally, please note that the standard of care for electronic or telehealth services is the same standard as in-person services, and each provider must ensure compliance with all applicable laws and rules when providing remote services.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

The Iowa Department of Public Health has issued orders and gathered resources to assist healthcare workers with providing in-person services during this public health disaster emergency. Prior to performing in-person services, please review this information and ensure that you are complying with all orders and appropriate guidance to safeguard the safety of yourself and your patients: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Healthcare>.