

Iowa Board of Massage Therapy 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 massage therapy. The Proclamation eases administrative rules relating to renewal of licenses and continuing education. The Proclamation also ordered the closures of certain establishments, including massage therapy establishments. *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 Massage Therapy issues this guidance relating to the temporary suspension of administrative rules in these areas:

Closure of Massage Therapy Establishments

A massage therapy establishment is a business location at which an individual provides massage therapy to the public. The March 22 closure order applies to all massage therapy establishments, including businesses focused solely on massage therapy, or services provided in another office, such as a physician or chiropractor's office or the massage therapist's private home. The Proclamation does not prohibit the practice of massage therapy at a client's private home. However, massage therapists are discouraged from engaging in such practice, and if they do so they should practice enhanced sanitation and hygiene procedures and take other precautions to protect themselves and their clients. The closure of massage therapy establishments is currently set to expire on 11:59 p.m. on April 7, 2020, but that date may be extended by future proclamations.

License Renewal

Section Six of the Proclamation temporarily suspended rules relating to license expirations during the period of the Proclamation.

Licenses that expire during the Proclamation period. If your license expires during the duration of the Proclamation, you may continue to work on the expired license. Although the Board of Massage Therapy remains operational, and will continue to process online renewal applications as they are received, you are no longer required to renew during the Proclamation period. If you do not renew during the Proclamation period, you must submit your renewal application within thirty (30) days of the end of the Proclamation. Completed applications received within thirty (30) days of the end of the Proclamation will be considered timely and will not result in any late penalties.

Licenses that expire after the Proclamation period. If your license expires after the end of the Proclamation, you are not impacted by this section and must renew your license in accordance with rule 645-131.8.

Continuing Education and Hands-On Training

Section Five of the Proclamation temporarily suspended rules relating to continuing education deadlines or in-person continuing education requirements as a condition of renewal. In light of the decreased opportunities to complete in-person continuing education, licensees will not be required to complete a minimum number of hands-on training for their next renewal, even if their next renewal is after the end of the Proclamation.