

Arizona State Board of Nursing

EMERGENCY DECLARATION– COVID-19 RESPONSE

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

March 31, 2020

1. Q: What does the Emergency Declaration do?

A: Allows the board, at the Board's discretion, to temporarily waive requirements for licensure for eligible nurses:

- Allows eligible nurses of all levels including Advanced Practice Nurses (APRNs) RN's, LPN's and nursing assistants to obtain a temporary 90 day waiver to practice in Arizona during the COVID-19 emergency.

***NOTE:** Nurses who already hold an active, multistate compact license (MSL) are able to practice in any compact state without any waiver needed, just as before. Also, the Board has an existing endorsement application process which includes an ability to apply for a temporary licensure/certification that may be preferable for many applicants versus the waiver.

- Allows eligible Arizona nurses and nursing assistants whose licenses/certificates expired within the past 5 years and have not met their 960 practice hours requirement for renewal to obtain a temporary 90 day waiver to practice in Arizona
- Allows nursing students who have successfully completed one semester from an approved nursing program, and passed the state nursing assistant exam, to apply for temporary nursing assistant certificate
- Allows nursing, nursing assistant, and medication assistant programs, with Board waiver application and approval, and for 90 days to:

- Substitute simulations, lab hours, and similar non-direct patient contact for required direct patient care clinical/instruction hours
- Provide all classroom/didactic teaching electronically, rather than in-person

2. Q: Do I still need a license or certificate to practice nursing in Arizona?

A: Yes, it is still unlawful to practice as a nurse (all levels), nursing assistant, or medication assistant in Arizona without authorization. So, you will need either a regular type of license/certificate/privilege to practice (multistate licensure), or you will need to apply to the Board and be granted a temporary waiver or certificate prior to practicing in Arizona.

3. Q: Do I need to apply to the Board to use the Emergency Declaration?

A: Yes, you will need to fill out an application to the Board and be granted a waiver before you can use the options in the Emergency Declaration.

4. Q: I have a multistate compact license – does this Emergency Declaration affect me?

A: No, all of the same benefits of multistate licensure remain unchanged. Arizona is a member of the multistate nurse licensure compact, so nurses from other compact states may still practice in Arizona either physically or through telehealth on their multistate privilege without requiring any waiver or application, just as before.

5. Q: I have a CNA certificate from another state (not Arizona) – can I practice in Arizona with the Emergency Declaration?

A: If you are eligible, and submit an application to the Board for a waiver that is granted, yes. You may also wish to consider submitting a regular endorsement application for certification or Licensed Nursing Assistant (“LNA”) licensure.

6. Q: I have an APRN certificate from another state (not Arizona) – can I practice in Arizona with the Emergency Declaration?

A: If you are eligible, and submit an application to the Board for a waiver that is granted, yes. You may also wish to consider submitting a regular

endorsement application for certification and request a temporary certification to begin practice.

7. Q: I am a nursing student and I want to help with the COVID-19 emergency – what can I do?

A: The Emergency Declaration allows eligible nursing students who have successfully completed at least one semester of an approved, pre-licensure program and also successfully complete the exam to apply and receive the nursing assistant certificate (CNA).

8. Q: I am a nursing student – does this Emergency Declaration affect me?

A: It may. It allows pre-licensure nursing students who have successfully completed one semester in an approved nursing program, provided proof from the program to the Board, and successfully pass the state nursing assistant exam, to apply for a nursing assistant certificate. It also allows nursing programs to substitute direct patient care clinicals with simulations, labs, and similar types of instruction, and to use online teaching rather than classroom teaching.

9. Q: Does the Emergency Declaration help nursing programs?

A: Yes, it may. If a nursing program submits an application for a 90 day waiver that is approved by the Board, the program may be eligible to substitute all direct patient care clinicals with simulations, labs, or similar types of instruction; and to use exclusively online instruction for classroom teaching.

10. Q: Does the Emergency Declaration help nursing assistant or medication assistant programs?

A: Yes, it may. If a nursing assistant or medication assistant program submits an application for a 90 day waiver that is approved by the Board, the program may be eligible to substitute all direct patient care clinicals with simulations, labs, or similar types of instruction; and to use exclusively online instruction for classroom teaching.

11. Q: What may make a nurse or nursing assistant not eligible for a waiver through the Emergency Declaration?

A: Nurses and nursing assistants are not eligible for a waiver if they have a

prior disciplinary history of revocation, surrender, or probation. All nurses who apply for a waiver, may be granted/denied at the Board's discretion.

12. Q: When do the Emergency Declaration waivers expire?

A: All 90 day waivers may be renewed in 90 day intervals, at the discretion of the Board. The waivers expire when the State of Emergency for the COVID-19 ends, even if that is less than the 90 days granted by the Board. If the Board determines that the waiver for that individual or program may endanger the health, safety or welfare of the public, it may summarily revoke the waiver.

13. Q: I have discipline on my license - am I eligible for an Emergency Declaration waiver?

A: Nurses and nursing assistants are not eligible for a waiver if they have a prior disciplinary history of revocation, surrender, application denial, or probation.

14. Q: Do I need to apply for all Emergency Declaration waivers or are some automatically granted?

A: All nurses and nursing assistants must apply for a waiver, which may be granted/denied at the Board's discretion.

15. Q: Can the Emergency Declaration waivers be revoked?

A: Yes, If the Board determines that the waiver for that individual or program may endanger the health, safety or welfare of the public, it may summarily revoke the waiver.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:**

By applying, any applicant for a temporary, emergency waiver agrees that the Board's decision is final, and the applicant releases the Board and the State from any causes of action related to the waiver application process, or possible revocation of the waiver in the future.

At its sole discretion, the Board may deny any waiver applications, or summarily revoke any waivers it previously granted, upon making a finding that the waiver for that individual or program may endanger the health, safety or welfare of

the public. Any such denial or revocation action is final and is not subject to legal review.