



**INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF
HEALTH PRACTITIONERS IN RESPONSE
TO STATE OF EMERGENCY**

On March 6, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-215, declaring a state of emergency regarding COVID-19, a respiratory disease causing illness that can range from very mild to severe, including illness resulting in death. There are currently several confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Kentucky.

On March 17, 2020, the Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services activated its operation of the emergency system for advanced registration of volunteer health practitioners, pursuant to KRS 39A.350-366 and thereby directed the Kentucky Board of Nursing to accept and review licenses for out-of-state nurses and board certified dialysis technicians by confirming that they are licensed and in good standing to perform health services during the state of emergency.

Pursuant to the CHFS Directive, the Good Samaritan Act of 2007, KRS 39A.350-366 and KRS 314.101(1)(a) the KBN has created a registry and application process for nurses and board certified dialysis technicians to practice in the Commonwealth during the state of emergency.

Please note the following:

- If a nurse holds a multistate practice privilege under the Nurse Licensure Compact they do not need to apply for practice in Kentucky pursuant to the Emergency System for Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Practitioners.
- The applicant must be licensed and in good standing in another state. Verification of good standing means no active encumbrance imposed by a licensing board in any state and no limitation on the full and unrestricted scope of practice pertinent to all of the licensee's license types.
- Where possible, Board staff will verify nurse licensure via NURSYS.COM, a national nurse licensure database. For board certified dialysis technicians and for nurses licensed in states that do not report disciplinary information to NURSYS, the licensee will be required to provide documentary proof of good standing and active licensure in the state of licensure as a prerequisite to inclusion on the registry.
- Practice in Kentucky shall be confined to healthcare facilities and settings that are currently licensed by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, or which are otherwise approved by the Cabinet to provide patient care within the Commonwealth during the current state of emergency related to COVID-19.
- "Voluntary health practitioner" means a health practitioner who provides health services, whether or not the practitioner receives compensation for those services. The term does not include a practitioner who receives compensation pursuant to a preexisting employment relationship with a host entity or affiliate which requires the practitioner to provide health

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services in this state, unless the practitioner is not a resident of this state and is employed by a disaster relief organization providing services in this state while an emergency declaration is in effect.

- As it relates to APRN practice, KRS 39A.350-366 and KRS 314.101(1)(a,e) do not authorize prescribing of controlled substances by out-of-state APRNs who are included in the registry. APRNs who are listed on the registry may order the administration of drugs and other treatments consistent with the APRNs scope of practice; however, the prescribing of controlled substances by such individuals is prohibited under current state law. Kentucky law permits the prescribing of legend drugs by APRNs who have held a collaborative agreement for the prescribing of legend drugs with a physician licensed in Kentucky for at least four (4) years (CAPA-NS). APRNs from other states who apply to practice in Kentucky during the state of emergency related to COVID19 shall provide evidence of their current authority to prescribe legend drugs in their state of licensure. These APRNs shall be exempt from the CAPA-NS requirement and shall be identified on the KBN registry of out-of-state licensees as authorized to prescribe legend drugs.
- This permission will be automatically revoked at the expiration of the state of emergency.
- After expiration of the state of emergency regarding COVID-19, if you wish to continue practicing in Kentucky on a permanent basis, you will need to complete the application process for a nurse or dialysis technician credential.
- There is no fee to apply for the Kentucky Registration for Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Practitioners.
- The application should be emailed to Kelsea.Bennett@ky.gov. If the application is handwritten please ensure that all fields are neatly written so that the application can be efficiently processed.
- To make this process as easy as possible on the applicant, the form can be photographed or scanned so long as the entire form is captured in the image. To scan the form from an iPhone create a new note in the notes app, select the camera, and select the option of scan documents. To scan the form from an Android device, scan the form directly into the Google Drive app by tapping the "+" button in the lower-right corner of the home screen. When the menu slides up select the scan option.
- Upon review of the application and verification of a license in good standing, a letter authorizing permission to practice during the state of emergency will be emailed to the applicant.