



Iowa Board of Nursing

400 S.W. 8th Street Suite B #
Des Moines, IA 50309-4685 #
Tel: (515) 281-3255 Fax: (515) 281-4825 #
Web: nursing.iowa.gov #

To: Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP) Issued
Emergency Licenses
From: Kathy Weinberg, Executive Director
Date: April 29, 2020
Re: Guidance for Emergency ARNP Licenses

Guidance for Nurses Issued an Emergency ARNP License

What is an emergency license?

Governor Reynolds's March 22, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster Emergency authorized the Board of Nursing to issue emergency licenses to individuals who have completed minimum education but are unable to obtain a license through the normal procedures due to COVID-19 related hardships, such as the closure of national certifying examination testing locations. The rules governing emergency licenses can be found at 655 Iowa Administrative Code rule 3.11. This license allows recent advanced practice graduates who are eligible to sit for their certification exams, but are unable to take the test due to testing center closures, to begin practicing while they wait for the opportunity to become certified.

When does the emergency license expire?

There are two ways for emergency licenses to expire. First, if you take the national certifying examination and you fail to become certified, your emergency license expires immediately. You may not continue to work on this emergency license after receiving a failing result. Second, this license will expire sixty (60) days after the expiration or termination of Governor Reynolds's March 22, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster Emergency. As of the date of this guidance document, the Proclamation has been extended until 11:59 p.m. on May 27, 2020. If the Proclamation is further extended, the emergency license will expire sixty days after the new end date.

Are there any practice limitations for emergency licenses?

An emergency license issued by the Board provides the same practice authority as a regular ARNP license issued by the Board. You may practice within your advanced practice role and population foci to the same extent as a regular ARNP licensee. Emergency licensees are also subject to the same regulations as regular licensees, and may be disciplined by the Board for any rule violations. Emergency licensees are encouraged to review 655 Iowa Administrative Code, especially chapter 7, and consult with their employers

to ensure that they have sufficient education, training, and competence to perform their assigned duties.

Once I pass the national certifying exam, how do I get a regular ARNP license?

You must send a copy of your national certification certificate to the Board office. Once the Board receives confirmation that you are certified, the Board will issue you a regular, non-emergency ARNP license.

Do I have to use a different title or abbreviation when signing my name?

No, you may use the title “Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner” or “ARNP” abbreviation after your name when you are practicing pursuant to an emergency license.

How do validate or verify my emergency license to a potential employer or the public?

All emergency licensees will be able to validate their licenses through IBON Online Services. Please visit the Board’s website at nursing.iowa.gov, and click “IBON Online Services” to access the Board’s online license verification tools.