

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 veterinary medicine. The Proclamation eases administrative rules relating to continuing education and renewal of licenses. The Proclamation has been extended several times by the Governor, including the most recent Proclamation issued on April 27, 2020. *The suspension of rules identified in the Proclamation is effective through May 27, 2020, unless the Governor terminates or extends the Proclamation.* As required in the Proclamation, the Board of Veterinary Medicine hereby issues this guidance relating to the temporary suspension of administrative rules in these areas which directly impact the Board and 811 Iowa Administrative Code.

In Section Seventy-Nine of the April 27, 2020 Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspends rules relating to **continuing education deadlines or requirements** as a condition of license renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation.

At this time, the Board does not anticipate extending the deadline for completion of continuing education for veterinarians in the current triennial license renewal period (through June 30, 2020). However, the Board is lifting the 20-hour limit on distance (online) education courses for continuing education credit for veterinarians for the current license renewal period and reducing the required amount of continuing education hours from 60 to 50. Thus, a veterinarian will need only 50 hours of continuing education during the current triennial license renewal period (through June 30, 2020) in order to renew his/her license. Pursuant to 811 Iowa Admin. Code 11.1(2), continuing education credits in excess of 50 hours for the current triennial license renewal period may still be carried over to the next triennial license period, but the total number of credit hours carried over shall not exceed 20 hours.

The veterinary technician continuing education reporting deadline for the current triennium is December 31, 2020. Nonetheless, the Board is lifting the 10-hour credit limit on home study (online) continuing education courses for those registrants who will renew by December 31, 2020.

In Section Eighty of the April 27, 2020 Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspends rules relating to **license and registration renewal**. The suspension applies only to licenses and registrations which expire between March 22 and May 27, 2020.

The license renewal period for veterinarians for the next triennium (July, 1 2020 through June 30, 2023) starts on May 1, 2020, with current veterinary licenses expiring on June 30, 2020. Veterinary technician registrations are not scheduled for renewal until January 1, 2021. Currently, the Proclamation is effective until May 27, 2020. Because licenses and registrations are not set to expire during this Proclamation, the Board does not anticipate any changes to the current renewal schedules and deadlines. If the duration of the Proclamation is extended by subsequent order of the Governor in a manner that impacts the current renewal schedules and deadlines, the Board will issue supplemental guidance explaining the effect of any such extension.

Please contact Dr. Jeff Kaisand at 515/281-0866 or Ginny Eason at 515/281-8617 with questions.

Dated this 4th day of May 2020