COVID-19 Licensing and Information

From the Vermont Department of Health Board of Medical Practice

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Special provisions for the COVID-19 public health emergency have been passed to facilitate practice in Vermont by healthcare professionals who are not licensed in Vermont. This sets forth information for physicians (MD), physician assistants, and podiatrists. Other professions (including osteopathic physicians) are under authority of the Office of Professional Regulation (link is external). There is special guidance below regarding retirees, physician assistants, and residents or fellows who hold training licenses.

There are two different paths available to be able to practice during the emergency. Both are expedited and free. Deemed licensure is faster, but not available to as many individuals depending on both the individual’s circumstances and the setting in which they will be practicing. Emergency licensure is available to many of those who cannot be “deemed.”

Practice by “Deemed” Licensure

MDs, physician assistants, and podiatrists who meet all the criteria below can be deemed to be licensed to practice in Vermont for practice in the following circumstances:

1. Providing remote services by teledmedicine (note that this refers to “telemedicine” in a generic sense, following the guidance in the emergency law and advisories issued by Vermont agencies and federal authorities). Telemedicine does not require the deemed form.
2. As part of the staff of a licensed facility in Vermont. Those practicing as part of the staff of a licensed facility must submit a small amount of information to identify themselves, provide contact information, and note where practicing. That may be done by hospital staff on behalf of the licensee. A form has been created for your convenience.

NOTE: MD and DPM Residents are also eligible for this status. See note below about residents. Also see special announcement re emergency waiver of PA requirements for documentation of supervision.

Professionals deemed licensed are not required to apply for an emergency license. There is no fee to be deemed licensed. Deemed licenses will be issued for the period while the declared emergency is in effect, but notice may be issued that a deemed license is no longer in effect.

To be deemed licensed to practice in one of the settings specified above, you must:

1. Be licensed in at least one US jurisdiction and be in good standing in all jurisdictions where you are licensed.
2. Not be subject to professional disciplinary proceedings in any other US jurisdiction (license is not suspended, revoked, or subject to limitations or conditions as a result of a disciplinary action, or formal charges issued. Notice only of an investigation is not disqualifying.
3. Not be barred from practice in Vermont for reasons of fraud or abuse, patient care, or public safety.

**Deemed License for Vermont Retirees** – those who retired from practice within the last 3 years and let their license lapse are also eligible to practice under the “deemed” framework described above. That is limited to telemedicine or to practice with the staff of a licensed facility in Vermont. Your license must have been in good standing when you retired and not have subsequently been subject to discipline. You need only to submit the notice telling us who you are and providing contact information and where you will be practicing.

**Deemed licenses for Residents and Fellows who hold training licenses** – residents and fellows who do not have a full license are eligible to be “deemed” to hold a Vermont training license, which we refer to as an LTL license. Those are not unlimited licenses but will allow you to practice as you may be assigned by your residency program. Examples of where this would apply are: Residents at DHMC who are assigned by their program to provide telehealth services are able to do so for patients in Vermont; DHMC residents who are assigned a new practice site in Vermont during the emergency. Some fellows hold full licenses – they fall under the general guidance that applies to holders of full licenses.

**Deemed licenses for PAs** – PAs may qualify to be deemed licensed in Vermont as described above. The Board is issuing a limited waiver of documentation requirements for PA supervision during the public health emergency. Answers to most questions regarding supervision requirements can be found by reviewing the announcement.

**Emergency Licenses**

Those who do not qualify to be deemed licensed may apply for an emergency license. **There is no fee for an emergency license** and the process to apply involves much less than our normal licensing process. Emergency licenses will be valid for 90 days or the duration of the declared emergency, whichever is shorter, but may be reissued. The groups who would need to get an emergency license (because they cannot be deemed licensed) are:

1. Holders of full licenses in other states who plan to practice in Vermont and who will not limit their practice exclusively to telemedicine or practice on the staff of a licensed facility. To be eligible for an emergency license all licenses held must be in good standing and you must not be subject to professional disciplinary proceedings in any other US jurisdiction (license is not suspended, revoked, or subject to limitations or conditions as result of a disciplinary action, or formal charges issued. Notice only of an investigation is not disqualifying.)
2. Retirees who retired more than 3 years ago but less than 10 years ago. All retirees who fall into this group must obtain an emergency license in order to practice.
To apply for an emergency license please click here after you have reviewed all the steps below.

- Create an account by choosing **REGISTER**. If you have already applied for licensure or have a lapsed Vermont license, please log into your existing account. **DO NOT** create another account. If you do not know your log in information, please use the password reset option.
- Once you have created an account or have logged in, from the **ON-LINE SERVICES** menu in the upper right-hand corner of the screen, choose "**CREATE/CONTINUE APPLICATION**" to start your application.
- Follow the instructions at this link. These specific instructions are for the emergency license ONLY and supersede any instructions within the online application.