



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued **Executive Order 2020-01D declaring a state of emergency in Ohio** to protect the well-being of the citizens of Ohio from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. The Ohio Board of Nursing (Board) recognizes that an adequate and safe nursing workforce is vital during times of emergencies, including the current COVID-19 pandemic; and the Board is aware of the importance of increasing the mobility of nurses in a safe and effective manner.

- 1. OHIO LAW AUTHORIZES NURSING PRACTICE IN EMERGENCIES WITHOUT AN OHIO NURSING LICENSE**, including deployment of licensed nurses from other states to Ohio during this state and national emergency, as well as the deployment of Ohio licensed nurses to similar declared emergency areas. Specifically, the Nurse Practice Act, Section 4723.32(G)(7), Ohio Revised Code (ORC), allows nurses who hold an active, valid license in another state to practice in Ohio without an Ohio nursing license for the duration of any declared disaster of this type, including the current COVID-19 declared emergency.
- 2. TO FURTHER ASSIST WITH NURSE MOBILITY, THE BOARD IS EXPEDITING THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY PERMITS.** Temporary permits authorize nurses to begin practicing in Ohio within 3 business days or less of the Board's receipt of an application for reciprocity. At this time additional revisions are being implemented to prioritize licensing whenever possible.

During emergencies in other states, the Board continues to encourage and facilitate Ohio participation by Ohio nurses in disaster relief through enrollment in the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)/Red Cross (ARC). The ARC verifies state license status, provides emergency relief training, and organizes deployment by matching a nurse's area of expertise to the area of need. The ARC has negotiated reciprocal licensing agreements with each state, so if nurses with active, valid licenses in one state are activated through ARC, they are able to practice in other states without having a license to practice in that state.

- 3. THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S RULE 3701-17-07.1(B), OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (OAC) ALLOWS A LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY** to use an individual who is not listed on the Nurse Aide Registry as a nurse aide for up to four months. The same Rule, paragraph (H), allows a long-term care facility to permit an individual used by the facility as a nurse aide while participating in a training and competency evaluation program to provide nursing and nursing-related services in certain situations. See <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-17-07.1v1>.
- 4. GOVERNOR DEWINE'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-01D FURTHER STATES THAT**, "all citizens are urged to heed the advice of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and other emergency officials regarding this public health emergency in order to protect their health and safety."

The Board's website <https://nursing.ohio.gov/> links to the ODH website and updates which may also be accessed directly at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/>.

Thank you for your work. We understand Ohio nurses are at the forefront of providing needed care and services during this pandemic.