

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE  
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 many 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 has directed the Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care (KBRC) to accept and review licenses for out-of-state respiratory therapists 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 and KRS 39A.350-366 the KBRC has created a registry and application process for respiratory therapists and other approved health practitioners to practice respiratory care in the Commonwealth during the state of emergency.

Please note the following:

- The out of state **respiratory therapist** 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.
- Board staff will verify credentials through the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) and status of the license in another state.
- Applicants of **other approved licensed professions** must be licensed in Kentucky and in good standing in their respective profession.
- 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 of Kentucky 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 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 the state while an emergency declaration is in effect.
- 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 Mandatory Certification.

- 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 [Tamara.McDaniel@ky.gov](mailto:Tamara.McDaniel@ky.gov) [RickL.Rose@ky.gov](mailto:RickL.Rose@ky.gov) or faxed to 859-246-2750.

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 mailed and emailed to the applicant.