



COVID-19 Impact on Licensing and Certification

As health professionals are increasingly called upon to address the impact of COVID-19 in their communities and patient populations, state medical and specialty boards have taken measures to ease licensing and certification pressures.

Many states have responded to the COVID-19 crisis by altering licensure requirements, granting Emergency Temporary Licenses, and extending license expiration dates. The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) has summarized these measures: [The Federation of State Medical Boards \(FSMB\) has summarized these measures in a comprehensive chart](#). As always, the ACS encourages members to continue to check directly with their licensing board for additional COVID-19 updates. In addition, the FSMB has posted a list of states that are [expediting licensure for retired and inactive physicians](#).

Similarly, several specialty boards have responded by canceling meetings and certification exams. The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has issued a [Statement to Designated Institutional Officials Regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#). The ACS suggests diplomates visit the websites of their individual certifying boards for specific information.

- [The American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery](#)
- [The American Board of Neurological Surgery](#)
- [The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology](#)
- [The American Board of Ophthalmology](#)
- [The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery](#)
- [The American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery](#)
- [The American Board of Plastic Surgery](#)
- [The American Board of Surgery](#)
- [The American Board of Thoracic Surgery](#)
- [The American Board of Urology](#)

American Osteopathic Association (AOA) member boards have also adjusted and have cancelled their meetings and examinations, in some cases. The AOA has created a website listing the status of events, meetings and certifying exams: [American Osteopathic Association - Status of Events, Meetings, and Certifying Exams](#).

[The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada \(RCPSC\)](#) has postponed the Royal College examinations, provided provisional licensing for residents, extended its deadline for annual dues, and waived MOC Program Requirements for 2020.

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