Alert

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Press Release

For Immediate Release:
April 3, 2020

For Further Information:
Media Inquiries-
Lisa Coryell
609-292-4791

Office of The Attorney General (http://www.nj.gov/oag/)
Gurbir S. Grewal, *Attorney General*

Division of Consumer Affairs (http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/)
Paul R. Rodríguez, *Acting Director*

AG Grewal Announces New Options for Healthcare Professionals to Support NJ's Response to COVID-19

Division of Consumer Affairs Starts Reactivating Licenses for Retirees,
Clears Path for Prescribers from Other States to Prescribe for NJ Residents, and
Will Soon Start Granting Temporary Licenses to Foreign Physicians

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Newark – Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal announced today that the Division of Consumer Affairs has created a streamlined process for retired New Jersey healthcare professionals to reactivate their licenses to support the State's response to COVID-19. The Division is now accepting applications from recent retirees seeking to return to practice on a temporary, emergency basis.

The reactivation of retirees is just one of several actions the Division is taking to implement an executive order (https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-112.pdf) issued by Governor Phil Murphy to remove barriers to healthcare professionals joining the State's response to the public health emergency. Governor Murphy's executive order also supplements the State's existing health care workforce by authorizing the temporary licensure in New Jersey of certain doctors who are licensed in foreign countries, and temporarily relaxing scope-of-practice restrictions on Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) so they can practice more independently during the current public health emergency.

In another action announced today, the Division of Consumer Affairs is paving the way for healthcare professionals from other States to prescribe medications for New Jersey residents, if the prescriber is temporarily licensed in New Jersey as part of the State's COVID-19 response and is allowed to prescribe elsewhere. These prescribers will no longer need to register with New Jersey to prescribe controlled dangerous substances, and will be allowed to participate in New Jersey's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

The Division has granted about 4,000 temporary licenses to out-of-state healthcare professionals in the last two weeks, including to professionals deployed to New Jersey with the National Guard and

to professionals who offering telehealth services to New Jersey residents remotely from their home States.

"The New Jersey healthcare professionals serving on the front lines in our fight against COVID-19 are nothing short of heroic. But they need reinforcements," said Attorney General Grewal. "We are acting swiftly to support Governor Murphy's call for all available and qualified healthcare professionals to step up and support the State's response to this public health emergency."

"We're doing everything we can to ensure we have a robust workforce of trained medical professionals to help flatten the curve of infections and save lives," said Paul R. Rodríguez, Acting Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs. "We will continue to look for ways to expand New Jersey's pool of qualified medical, nursing and therapy personnel to meet the State's needs during this nationwide health crisis."

About 50,000 retired New Jersey healthcare professionals may be eligible for temporary emergency licenses under Governor Murphy's executive order and the Division's actions today. Their numbers include over 11,000 physicians, over 900 respiratory care practitioners, tens of thousands of nurses, and thousands of mental health professionals.

Eligible retirees can reactivate their licenses on the Division's website (https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/COVID19/Pages/C19-Re-activation.aspx) by completing a simple form. The Division aims to process each application within one day of submission. After reactivating their licenses, retirees are encouraged to visit the Department of Health's portal (https://covid19.nj.gov/volunteer) for healthcare professionals who are willing and able to support New Jersey's response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Only retirees whose licenses have been expired or inactive for five years or less are eligible to reactivate their licenses on a temporary emergency basis. For now, eligibility is also limited to practitioners from some of the fields where reinforcements are most needed:

- Physicians
- Respiratory Care Therapists
- Physician Assistants
- Advanced Practice Nurses
- Registered Professional Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Professional Counselors
- Rehabilitation Counselors
- Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors
- State Certified Psychoanalysts
- Psychologists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Licensed Social Workers
- Certified Social Workers
- Midwives

Other retirees interested in returning to practice to support the State's COVID-19 can go through the usual reactivation process.

Additional information for retirees interested in returning to practice is available in guidance (http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases20/FAQs-Retirees_040320.pdf) issued by the Division of Consumer Affairs today.

A separate guidance (http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases20/FAQs-Telehealth_040320.pdf) document also issued by the Division today clarifies how healthcare professionals can use telehealth to deliver health care to New Jersey residents.

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Last Modified: *4/3/2020 11:51 AM*

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