

Maintaining CPR Certification During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In March of 2020, the American Heart Association extended the expiration deadlines for CPR certificates due to the inability of persons to attend in-person training classes. As a result, the Board issued the following statement in mid-May:

To further the goal of licensing qualified persons to provide the needed care to the North Carolina public, the Board is temporarily waiving its regulatory requirement to complete a CPR course with in-person manikin instruction and testing to this limited extent: As of May 13, 2020, and through the effective date of Executive Order Nos. 130 and 139, the Board will temporarily accept provisional CPR certification issued by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association from applicants for licensure by credentials. The Board also may accept provisional CPR certifications issued by other organizations but only if the applicant can conclusively demonstrate that those organizations meet the American Red Cross or American Heart Association standards for certification. Applicants for licensure by credentials who submit provisional CPR certifications must complete the in-person manikin instruction and testing and obtain full certification as soon as possible and, at a minimum, before the provisional certification expires.

The American Heart Association has now published the attached chart showing when certifications will expire.

https://cpr.heart.org/-/media/cpr-files/resources/covid-19-resources-for-cpr-training/updated-interim-guidance-on-card-extensions_51920_final.pdf?la=en

The Board has also learned that in-person training classes that meet the requirements of the Board rule are being offered throughout the state. Persons in need of CPR renewal may find a class by using the attached link:

https://ahainstructornetwork.americanheart.org/AHA/ECC/classConnector.jsp?pid=ahaecc.classconnector.home&courseid=1-5BPOMK&language=1001&utm_source=referral&utm_medium=FindACourse&utm_campaign=FindACourseFilter&_ga=2.89925339.1587765171.1594821476-149466503.1579094430

However, training centers in impacted areas that are unable to offer in-person instruction may extend the certificate expiration deadline for up to an additional 120 days.

Therefore, licensees in need of CPR renewal should enroll in a class and complete the requirements of 21 NCAC 16A .0101(5) or obtain an additional extension from a training center in an impacted area.