

COVID-19 Practice Guidance for Licensees and Facilities Regulated by the Division Under AS 08

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, 11/12/20

The Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing recognizes licensed professionals have faced many challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID information changes rapidly and it is the responsibility of every licensed professional to stay informed and practice safely.

The governor and Alaska health care authorities have lifted Health Mandate 15, so the division is reaching out to provide guidance for licensees whose practices are solely regulated by the division or in partnership with a licensing board ([AS 08](#)). Professions regulated by boards under AS 08 may have issued separate guidance targeted to their industries.

In keeping with generally accepted science-based practices, the division recommends all licensees follow CDC and DHSS guidance for healthcare providers and facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/us-healthcare-facilities.html>

Healthcare Practitioners

Recommendations for mitigating COVID-19 exposure risk include, but are not limited to:

1. Establishing clear, written policies regarding infectious disease control, return-to-work standards, and decisionmaking processes as conditions change.
2. Conducting screening procedures for all patients to determine risks of COVID-19 exposure and identify high risk individuals with impaired health status.
3. Following State of Alaska COVID-19 testing guidance when applicable: <http://www.dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/testing.aspx>
4. Recommending delay in treatment or telehealth options if screening identifies potential exposure or impaired health status.
 - a. Treatment cannot be safely provided through direct contact.
 - b. The client has co-morbidities with increased risk of illness and possibility of death should they contract COVID-19.
 - c. In addition to being licensed in Alaska, their company must complete an application with the Telemedicine Business Registry prior to provision of such care.
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/TelemedicineBusinessRegistry.aspx>
5. Completing thorough cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces, equipment and tools with potential patient/provider contact.
6. Requiring universal masking:
 - a. Requiring cloth face coverings for patients and office staff
 - b. Requiring, at a minimum, surgical masks for clinical personnel
 - c. Follow current CDC guidelines to provide safe patient care intervention.
7. Maintaining social distancing in all common areas (IE: lobby and waiting room). Other examples may include advising patients to be unaccompanied, unless a minor or if additional assistance is needed to understand treatment instructions or for emotional or physical support.

8. Maintaining the highest sanitary levels via frequent handwashing/sanitizer use. For example, any provider-patient contact will require immediate sanitization and handwashing before and after contact.
 - a. The division recommends following CDC guidelines regarding cleaning and disinfecting. Recommended EPA Disinfectants can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
 - b. Read all labels/instructions as some disinfectants require longer kill times.

The conditions under which licensees provide care should follow state licensing statutes and regulations, board guidance (if applicable), and CDC, OSHA, and other relevant guidelines. Should a provider be unable or unwilling to comply with the conditions of licensure or the CDC/OSHA guidelines, the division recommends they postpone such care until such time that they are able and willing to comply or until these statutes, regulations, or guidelines are amended or rescinded. For all CDC guidelines on COVID-19, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/>. Additional state guidance is linked here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov>.

Non-Healthcare Licensees

The division urges all licensees employed in a profession that does not deliver healthcare to maintain vigilance in interacting with each other and with the public, particularly if the work requires close contact, such as personal care services.

Following all CDC guidance is recommended, particularly:

1. Establishing clear, written workplace policies regarding infectious disease control, return-to-work standards, and decisionmaking processes as conditions change.
2. Wearing cloth face coverings for close indoor work.
3. Maintaining social distancing in all common areas.
4. Maintaining the highest sanitary levels via frequent handwashing/sanitizer use.
 - a. The division recommends following CDC guidelines regarding cleaning and disinfecting. Recommended EPA Disinfectants can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
 - b. Read all labels/instructions as some disinfectants require longer kill times.

For all CDC guidelines on COVID-19, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/worker-safety-support/index.html>. Additional state guidance is linked here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov>.

Professions licensed through the division under AS 08:

* Regulated by a board; [check for additional guidance](#)

Acupuncture	Massage Therapy*
Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors*	Mechanical Administrators
Athletic Training	Medical*
Audiologists & Speech-Language Pathology	Midwifery*
Barbers & Hairdressers*	Morticians
Behavior Analysis	Naturopathy
Big Game Commercial Services Board*	Nursing*
Chiropractic *	Nurse Aides*
Collection Agencies	Nursing Home Administrators

Concert Promoters
Construction Contractors
Dental *
Dietitians & Nutritionists
Dispensing Opticians
Electrical Administrators
Euthanize Domestic Animals
Geologists
Guardians & Conservators
Hearing Aid Dealers
Home Inspectors
Marine Pilots*
Marital & Family Therapy*

Optometry*
Pawnbrokers
Pharmacy*
Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy*
Professional Counseling*
Psychology*
Public Accountancy*
Real Estate Appraisal*
Real Estate*
Social Work*
Telemedicine Business Registry
Underground Storage Tank Workers
Veterinary*

For more information and links to contacts, please visit [professionallicense.alaska.gov](https://www.professionallicense.alaska.gov).