

Julie Anderson
Commissioner



Department of Commerce,
Community, and
Economic Development

www.Commerce.Alaska.Gov

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

21-021

275 Nurse Emergency Courtesy Licenses Issued

Monday, October 11, 2021 (Juneau, AK) – The nurse licensing team within the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing (CBPL) has worked tirelessly to issue 275 emergency courtesy credentials between September 22 and October 6, 2021. Compared to the number of emergency courtesy licenses issued in 2020, the team has managed to compress months of application review into two weeks.

“We are proud of Alaska’s health care workers who are working tirelessly to keep our communities healthy,” **said the Governor of Alaska, Mike Dunleavy**. “This is great news that will positively impact Alaska’s hospitals. Thank you to the nurse licensing team for all your hard work. These emergency courtesy licenses will support the systems we have in place to keep our state healthy.”

On September 22, Governor Dunleavy announced that hundreds of medical personnel were on their way to Alaska to assist the State’s health care facilities, including nearly 300 registered nurses and more than 100 certified nurse aides. The nurse licensing team is not staffed to process hundreds of applications in short period, yet the team has put in countless hours to ensure our health care facilities receive the help they need as quickly as possible.

“I am so proud of our nurse licensing team for their hard work and dedication,” **said Commissioner Julie Anderson with the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED)**. “Despite being understaffed and facing a significantly increased workload, they have persevered and ensured our facilities quickly receive the help they need.”

Last week, the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) thanked the nurse licensing team for the difference their hard work is making for Alaska’s health care system.

“Nurses have long requested respite from the overwork of COVID-19, and our staff is honored to be a part of the team bringing relief and support to Alaska’s stressed health care system,” **said CBPL Director, Sara Chambers**. “The process of screening credentials is still taking a long time for full licenses – a time frame that could be safely and completely eliminated by legislative adoption of the Nurse Licensure Compact. Until state law changes, it may take months to obtain a full nursing license, especially while the demand is extremely high.”

The State Board of Nursing is housed within the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing (CBPL), Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED). For more information on DCCED, visit www.commerce.alaska.gov. For more information on the Board of Nursing, visit www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofNursing.

###

Media Contact: Sara Chambers, (907) 465-2144, sara.chambers@alaska.gov