

Nevada State Board of NURSING

August 25, 2020

Senator Pat Spearman, Chair
Nevada Legislature
Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission
Legislative Building
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada

Dear Senator Spearman,

Please accept this letter as a response to the requests contained in the email sent on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, from Jennifer Ruedy. Specifically, it was requested that the Nevada State Board of Nursing report to the Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission regarding detailed information concerning Emergency Directive 011.

1. How many practitioners were allowed to practice in Nevada during the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic by submitting a completed waiver form?

As of August 20, 2020, the Board has received the following number of waivers to practice in Nevada pursuant to Emergency Directive 11.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses	270
Licensed Professional Nurses (RNs)	684
Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)	129
Certified Nursing Assistants	49
<u>Nursing Students</u>	<u>58</u>
Total waivers received	1,190

2. Have there been any complaints about these practitioners?

No, the Board has not received any complaints about the above listed practitioners.

3. What, if any, steps were taken to ensure public safety for patients of these practitioners?

Directive 11, as issued by the Governor, was very clear. The express language of Section 2 of Emergency Directive 011 provides that licensing requirements are waived if a practitioner has a valid license in good standing in another state (irrespective of suspensions for failure to pay fees or complete continuing education) and those who are retired. The only requirement for the listed practitioners to practice in Nevada was notice to the Board with an attestation that they meet the stated requirements. For such practitioners, all other professional licensing requirements are waived and exempted.

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There was no requirement for practitioners to additionally notify the Board where they were working in order to identify future patients. This practice is not unusual because nurses licensed in Nevada are not required to tell the Board where they work. The Board did not add any additional barriers to practice under Directive 11.


4. Will this experience change licensing practices in the future?

The answer to that question will be provided by the Nevada Legislature. The Nevada State Board of Nursing enforces the laws of Nevada as written. The Nevada State Board of Nursing cannot change licensing practices. The current law requires a nurse to be licensed in Nevada if the nurse is treating a patient that is located in the State of Nevada.

The Nurse Licensure Compact has been enacted in 34 states. The Nurse Licensure Compact allows qualified nurses licensed in any compact state to work in any other compact state without first obtaining a license in the new state. The Board of Nursing has supported the passage of the Nurse Licensure Compact during the past two legislative sessions. The Board continues to support its passage. If the Nevada Legislature finds that allowing qualified practitioners licensed in another state with a license in good standing to practice nursing in Nevada without first obtaining a Nevada license to be a good thing, then the Board of Nursing urges the Nevada Legislature to move forward with the passage of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

You may contact my office at 775-687-7734 should you need additional information.

Sincerely,
Nevada State Board of Nursing



Cathy Dinauer, MSN, RN
Executive Director