

April 6, 2020

To: All Health Systems Division Licensed and/or Certified Providers/Programs/Facilities*

From: Margie Stanton, Director, Health Systems Division

Subject: Suspension of Site Visits and Extension of Expired Licenses and Certificates

Governor Brown has issued Executive Order 20-03, allowing for state agencies to develop and implement procedures that are in response to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

One of the key goals for the U.S. healthcare system in response to the COVID-19 outbreak is to preserve healthcare system functioning. Effective April 6, 2020, Oregon Health Authority's Health Systems Division (HSD) will:

1. Suspend all non-emergency HSD site visits such as license renewal inspections;
2. Extend all HSD issued licenses that expire during this state of emergency for six months from the date of expiration; and
3. Extend all HSD certificates that expire during this state of emergency for six months from the date of expiration.

This change will allow programs and facilities to focus their energy, resources, and staff on the COVID-19 response and caring for patients. It will also allow the department to focus our work on technical assistance and investigations of complaints that pose the greatest risk to patients.

We will continue the following compliance activities:

1. Investigate complaints that allege immediate risk to patient safety including but not limited to complaints of patient abuse/neglect;
2. Investigate complaints that allege immediate risk to patient safety due to infection control concerns, including facilities with potential or confirmed COVID-19 or other respiratory illness; and
3. Conduct initial state licensure inspections of new facilities and remodel of facilities to support access to care.

This approach is consistent with guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and CMS's own suspension of most compliance inspections. Additional CMS guidance is linked on the [CMS Coronavirus webpage](#). Also see guidance from SAMHSA at

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/considerations-outpatient-mental-substance-use-disorder-treatment-settings.pdf>

For additional information about coronavirus, please see the [OHA Covid-19 website](#). In addition, sign up to receive OHA coronavirus updates by going to www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus and checking our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

***These include:**

- Adult Foster Homes
- Child and Adolescent Programs: Intensive Treatment Services (ITS) and Children's Emergency Safety Intervention Specialists (CESIS)
- Civil Commitment, including Training and Certifying Examiners and Investigators
- Community-Based Structured Housing
- Outpatient Programs: Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders to include Synthetic Opiate Treatment Programs and Problem Gambling; Alcohol and Other Drug Screening Specialists (ADSS)
- Residential Treatment Facilities: Mental Health Adult Residential Treatment Homes and Facilities, and Secure Residential Treatment Facilities; Adolescent and Adult Substance Use Disorders including Substance Use Detoxification Services, and Problem Gambling programs
- Sobering Facilities

