

# Kansas State Board of Nursing

## Bi-Weekly Update

November 5, 2020

*The mission of the Board of Nursing is to assure the citizens of Kansas safe and competent practice by nurses and mental health technicians*



Due to social distancing requirements, we must limit the number in our lobby to no more than 2 at a time. **It is highly recommended that you conduct your business with the Board of Nursing via online services, mail, phone call, email or by making an appointment (785-296-2967).** There is a secure drop box located outside of the agency that is available for anyone to drop off documents for the Board of Nursing. There is a button to push by the agency door to gain access to the agency. KSBN NO longer performs fingerprinting services in the agency. There is a [list of the sites with contact information on our website](#). The majority of staff continue to telework to decrease possible exposure. The best way to contact them is via their email. You may find our direct agency contact information listed under [Staff Directory](#) on our website. Please continue to follow our website and social media [[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)] and our [COVID-19 Information Center](#) for agency updates and frequently asked questions.

- ⇒ **Agency processing times:** There are licensing requirements that must be met before a license can be issued. This includes information that must be reviewed and processed once received in our agency. During times our agency is receiving a high volume of applications and reviewing information received, processing times may be longer than usual. Our agency has 7 to 10 business days to review and process information once it is received in our agency. Some of the information required to meet licensing requirements is received from outside agencies, who have their own timelines that we must work with. **It slows processing times when staff must respond to numerous emails and phone calls as to whether a piece of information has been received and processed.** Please continue to check your application checklist as we will update it as information is processed. Another important reminder, licenses are issued on an individual basis and times may differ for each applicant. **Agency staff are working diligently to process applications and required information.** We want to get applicants licensed as soon as possible. If an applicant has a legal background, that will delay the licensing process as the legal information must be reviewed and the applicant approved for licensure.
- ⇒ **House Bill No. 2016:** As the pandemic numbers continue to rise and staffing concerns are being discussed, this is a reminder about HB 2016 that was passed by the Legislature in June 2020. This act concerns the governmental response to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic in Kansas. **It contains provisions that impact nurses supporting a healthcare facility's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may not be all nurses.** Here is a brief overview of these provisions:
- ◇ APRNs employed to support a facility's response to the COVID-18 pandemic may work as necessary without direction and supervision from a responsible physician. A RNA may work as necessary to support the facility's response to the pandemic without direction and supervision from a physician (**expires 1/26/2021**)
  - ◇ RNs or LPNs may order the collection of throat or nasopharyngeal swab specimens from individuals suspected of being infected by COVID-19 for the purposes of testing (**expires 1/26/2021**)
  - ◇ LPNs may provide healthcare services appropriate to their education, training and experience when employed or contracted to work to support the facility's response to the pandemic without direction from a RN (**expires 1/26/2021**)
  - ◇ RNs or LPNs who hold a license that is exempt or inactive or whose license has expired within the past five years may provide healthcare services appropriate to their education, training and experience (**expires 1/26/2021**)
  - ◇ Allows a registered nurse who is serving in the military to volunteer or work within a facility in roles that are appropriate to their education, training or experience (**expires 1/26/2021**)
  - ◇ A nurse licensed and in good standing in another state may practice as a nurse in the state of Kansas (**expires 1/26/2021**)
  - ◇ Nurses meeting the requirements of this act may have their license reinstated within five years of lapse without the requirements of continuing education and payment of a fee. **Nurses wanting this provision will be given a temporary license that expires on 1/26/2021.** After that date, the nurse may apply for reinstatement of license and meet the requirements of reinstatement.
  - ◇ **As a reminder, all these provisions impact nurses supporting a healthcare facility's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may not be all nurses.** There is further explanation of these provisions and a link to HB 2016 on our website.

**Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times. Stay safe and healthy!**

*Carol Moreland, MSN, RN, Executive Administrator*