

Hello everyone,

In light of COVID-19 and state responses to the crises, APA continues to add information to [our Coronavirus page](#). In the meantime, we wanted to get you the specific guidance for your state sooner than it can be uploaded. Here is what we have for Massachusetts so far:

- Governor Baker [issued an executive order](#) requiring the following regarding telehealth:
 - Commercial insurers must cover telehealth for all in-network providers that is medically necessary
 - Insurers may not impose any specific restrictions on telehealth technology, including any limitations on audio-only or live video technologies
 - Payment must be the same as in-person
 - All COVID-19 services delivered through telehealth must have no cost sharing
 - No prior authorization for COVID-19-related telehealth services

- [Licensure and Telehealth \(3/17/2020\)](#): Supporting Expedited Licensing Of Health Care Professionals: The Administration today announced four new emergency orders to expedite the onboarding of more licensed health care professionals during the COVID-19 emergency. Changes as a result of these orders include:
 - Licenses of physicians who have retired within the last year, without complaints at the time of retirement and in good standing, may be reactivated, and licenses that would otherwise be up for renewal may be extended for 90 days after the end of the public health emergency.
 - Providers in good standing licensed in other states may obtain emergency licenses to practice in person or through telemedicine.
 - The ability of residents to provide services, subject to appropriate supervision, will also be expanded.
 - Assures continuity of care for college and university students, licenses for nurses, pharmacists and physician assistants that would otherwise be up for renewal for 90 days after the end of the public health emergency may be extended, and no nurse, social worker, psychologist or medical doctor may be prohibited from providing telehealth services across state lines to college or university students who have returned home.
 - Recognizing the crucial need for sufficient EMS capacity during this public health emergency, these orders adjust minimum standards for ambulance staffing to ensure sufficient availability and capacity of EMS services.
 - Expands telehealth by facilitating telehealth services across state lines.

If you are aware of additional announcements that we missed, please share them with us as we're trying to keep a centralized list of all state guidance.

Thank you for all you are doing during this public health emergency!

Kathy Orellana

Regional Director | State Government Relations

American Psychiatric Association (202) 559-3911 korellana@psych.org