



## **MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS**

### **NOTICE**

This notice is given by Robert R. Neall, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health, acting pursuant to the Proclamation of Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. (the “Governor”) dated March 5, 2020 proclaiming a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency related to COVID-19, as it may be extended or renewed from time to time, and the Order of the Governor dated March 12, 2020 entitled “Extending Certain Licenses, Permits, Registrations, and Other Governmental Authorizations, and Authorizing Suspension of Legal Time Requirements”, as it may be amended from time to time after finding that the action(s) described herein will not endanger the public health, welfare, or safety.

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS SCHEDULED TO RENEW THEIR LICENSE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2020**

#### **Changes to the 2020 License Renewal Date as a Result of the COVID-19 Crisis**

Under the Governor’s March 12, 2020 Order and renewed on June 19, 2020, the 2020 deadline to renew licenses to practice dentistry or dental hygiene, originally set for June 30, 2020, has been extended. If you are scheduled to renew your dental or dental hygiene license in 2020, your renewal materials and payment will now be due on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date the state of emergency is terminated and the catastrophic health emergency is rescinded. Thus, the following regulations will be modified:

- The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.44.10.01(A): “A general license to practice dentistry and a general license to practice dental hygiene shall expire on June 30 of the second year following the effective date of the license.”
- The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.44.10.01(B): “A limited license to practice dentistry shall expire 1 year from the effective date and must be reapplied for.”
- The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.44.10.02(F)(1): “A licensee who has failed to renew a license to practice dentistry in this State by July 31 of the year in which the license is due for renewal is prohibited from practicing dentistry in this State after the expiration date of the license.”

Online renewal for dentists and dental hygienists began on June 1, 2020.

These modifications correspond to the following statements from the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order:

- “This Order applies to all licenses...issued by the State of Maryland, any agency of the State of Maryland...including...professional licenses...that would otherwise expire during the state of emergency...and be renewable during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency. The expiration date...is hereby extended to the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date by which the state of emergency is terminated and the catastrophic health emergency is rescinded.”

**The Dental Board interprets the Governor's Order as follows:**

- Regardless of the date of rescission, licensees will have at least 30 days to renew their license.
- General licensees will be considered licensed by the board during the extension period and during any late period.
- Once the renewal date is established, the late period for renewal will begin 30 days thereafter and last for 30 days. Dentists and dental hygienists will be required to reinstate their license upon expiration of the late period. This follows the same timeline as existing law (COMAR 10.44.10.02(E—F)).  
Limited Licenses to Practice Dentistry: Limited licenses to practice dentistry are not renewable (COMAR 10.44.10.02(D)). Therefore, limited license holders must reapply for a new license (COMAR 10.44.10.01(B)). Those with limited licenses will be considered licensed by the board during the extension period.
- If a dentist or a dental hygienist is required to reinstate their license, they are considered unlicensed between the period of the expiration of the late period and the date of the reinstatement.

**This notice is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until 30 days after the state of emergency has been terminated and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded.**

The board will advise all dentists and dental hygienists when the state of emergency is terminated and the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded. **We appreciate your cooperation.**

Francis X. McLaughlin, Jr.,  
Executive Director  
Maryland State Board of  
Dental Examiners