

## COVID 19 and Teledietetics

The Board does not have the authority to waive any licensure requirements. The Governor has the authority to issue executive orders related to health care practitioners in response to the current COVID 19 state of emergency. The March 16, 2020 executive order relating to various health care matters authorizes licensees from out of state and inactive licensees in the State of Maryland to practice at health care facilities in Maryland without a Maryland license under certain circumstances. Each individual health care facility must determine whether the circumstances are justified to allow the health care practitioners to work at the facility without a Maryland license for the duration of the emergency. The executive order may be found at: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Executive-Order-Health-Care-Matters.pdf>.

Unless there is an exception to licensure or the Governor has waived licensure requirements pursuant to the state of emergency, if an individual is practicing dietetics in Maryland, then they are required to obtain a license from the Board. The practice of dietetics includes the use of telecommunications or electronic technology to deliver services within the scope of practice of dietetics at a location other than the location of the patient.

Pursuant to Maryland Health Occ. Code Ann. § 5-101(h), the Dietitian-Nutritionists Practice Act provides the following:

(1) “Practice dietetics” means to apply the principles derived from integrating knowledge of food, biochemistry, physiology, management science, behavioral science, and social science to human nutrition.

(2) “Practice dietetics” includes:

(i) Assessing individual and community food practices and nutritional status using anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, dietary, and demographic data, for clinical, research, and program planning purposes;

(ii) Developing, establishing, and evaluating nutritional care plans that establish priorities, goals, and objectives for meeting nutrient needs for individuals or groups;

(iii) Nutrition counseling and education as a part of preventive or restorative health care throughout the life cycle;

(iv) Determining, applying, and evaluating standards for food and nutrition services; and

(v) Applying scientific research to the role of food in the maintenance of health and the treatment of disease.

Licensees seeking to practice Teledietetics with a patient located outside of Maryland should check with the other state to see if licensure is required.

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