



## Iowa Board of Nursing

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### MEMORANDUM

To: Nurse Licensees, Nursing Employers and Nurse Educators

From: Kathy Weinberg, Executive Director

Date: September 16, 2021

Subject: Out of State Nurses

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If a nurse holds an active license in **any state**, there is currently no impediment to that nurse working in Iowa and that nurse can start working immediately.

- If the nurse holds a multistate license from a compact state, he or she may always begin working in Iowa based on compact privileges and does not need to first obtain an Iowa license.
- If a nurse holds an active license from a non-compact state, board rule 655-3.2(2)(c) allows that nurse to work in Iowa in response to a state of emergency declared by the governor. The nurse does not need to first obtain an Iowa license and may immediately begin working in Iowa for as long as the state continues to be under a proclamation of disaster emergency.

The only class of persons who cannot start working immediately are recent nursing school graduates who must take and pass the NCLEX exam. However, as long as graduates do not delay in submitting their materials or submit incomplete materials, board staff can expedite processing and we do not anticipate any delays in processing completed applications.