



**COLORADO**

Department of  
Regulatory Agencies

Division of Professions and Occupations

## **STATEMENT OF BASIS, PURPOSE and JUSTIFICATION for EMERGENCY RULES**

Colorado Governor Jared Polis declared a state of emergency on March 10, 2020, through Executive Order D 2020 003, which was subsequently extended through Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, and D 2020 125 to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by mitigating the harm caused by the spread of the disease. Executive Order D 2020 038 was issued on April 15, 2020, extended through Executive Orders D 2020 063, D 2020 097, D 2020 131, and D 2020 158 and amended, restated and extended through Executive Order D 2020 182 to address the immediate need for trained medical personnel available to provide healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Basis

Through Executive Order D 2020 182, Governor Jared Polis amended, restated and extended Executive Order D 2020-038 directing the Executive Director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, through the Director of the Division of Professions and Occupations (Division Director), to promulgate and issue temporary emergency rules to expand the workforce of trained medical personnel available to provide healthcare services within inpatient facilities due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in Colorado. The basis for these emergency rules is Executive Order D 2020 182, which amended, restated and extended Executive Orders D 2020 038, D 2020 063, D 2020 097, D 2020 131, and D 2020 158, issued by Governor Jared Polis pursuant to the State of Emergency Declaration found in Executive Orders D 2020-003, D 2020-018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, and D 2020 125, Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, and the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, sections 24-33.5-701, *et. seq.*, C.R.S.

### Purpose

The purpose of these emergency rules is to effectuate Executive Order D 2020 182 directing the Executive Director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, through the Director of the Division of Professions and Occupations (Division Director), to promulgate and issue temporary emergency rules to expand the workforce of trained medical personnel available to provide healthcare services within inpatient facilities due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in Colorado.

Through this emergency rulemaking, the Executive Director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, through the Director of the Division of Profession and Occupations (Division Director), is addressing expanded delegation of services for respiratory therapists in order to provide hospitals and inpatient facilities with the flexibility to fill healthcare service gaps with readily available personnel through expanded delegation of services.

### Justification

As set forth in Executive Order D 2020 038, the need exists to immediately expand the available healthcare workforce in hospitals and inpatient facilities. The Executive Director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, through the Division Director, is promulgating these emergency rules governing expanded delegation of services to provide hospitals and inpatient

facilities with the flexibility to fill healthcare service gaps with readily available personnel through expanded delegation of services.

Pursuant to section 24-4-103(6)(a), C.R.S., a temporary or emergency rule may be adopted without compliance with section 24-4-103(4), C.R.S., which requires the agency to hold a public hearing “at which it shall afford interested persons an opportunity to submit written data, views, or arguments and to present the same orally”; and with less than the twenty days’ notice set forth in section 24-4-103(3), C.R.S., or without notice where circumstances imperatively require, only if the agency finds that “[i]mmediate adoption of the rule is imperatively necessary to comply with a state or federal law or federal regulation or for preservation of the public health, safety or welfare and compliance with the requirements of this section would be contrary to the public interest.” Such findings must be made on the record.

The Executive Director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, through the Division Director, hereby finds the immediate adoption of these emergency rules is imperatively necessary to comply with Executive Order 2020-038 and, that due to threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the adoption of emergency rules to expand the available healthcare workforce in hospitals and inpatient facilities is imperatively necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare.

The Executive Director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, through the Division Director, finds, as required by section 24-4-103(4)(b), C.R.S., that the need for the emergency rulemaking exists; the proper constitutional and/or statutory authority exists for the rules; to the extent practicable, the rules are clearly and simply stated so that their meaning will be understood by any required to comply with the rules; the rules do not conflict with other provisions of the law; and any duplication or overlapping of the rules, if any, has been explained.

These temporary/emergency rules take effect September 9, 2020 and remain in effect for the longer of (A) 30 days after adoption, or (B) the duration of the State of Disaster Emergency declared by the Governor, up to a maximum of 120 days after adoption of these temporary/emergency rules.

Dated this 9th day of September, 2020.



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Ronne Hines, Director  
Division of Professions and Occupations