

Emergency Rule 410-4-0.6-.06 Temporary Permits for Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines

- (1) As a response to the current state of emergency as declared by the Governor, the Georgia Board of Nursing finds the potential for imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare of Georgia citizens. This emergency rule shall go into effect based on O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4 (b) and shall be effective for the duration of the emergency and for a period of not more than 60 days following the end of the emergency period.
- (2) The Board shall be authorized, in its discretion, to issue temporary permits to practice nursing for the sole purpose of administering the COVID-19 vaccine and monitoring the patient for any adverse reactions in the subsequent observation period to practitioners who held a license issued by the Georgia Board of Nursing that has become lapsed or inactive within the five (5) years prior to January 22, 2021.
- (3) In order to be eligible to apply for a temporary permit, the retired/inactive nurse must not have been the subject of a public or private disciplinary action and/or a pending investigation prior to the lapsing/inactive status or as a result of information received since the license lapsed/became inactive.
- (4) An applicant for a temporary permit under this rule, who was previously licensed as a registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse in the state of Georgia, must submit the following: (a) A complete application; (b) submission of a criminal background check as required by O.C.G.A. §43-26-7(d)(3); and (c) the license shall not have lapsed or been inactive for more than a period of five (5) years from January 22, 2021.
- (5) The Board may deny or revoke a temporary permit for failure to demonstrate current knowledge, skill, and proficiency in the practice of nursing, or being mentally or physically unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety or for any ground set forth in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-26-11 (3); 43-26-40(a)(6).
- 6) Any temporary permit holder who is issued a temporary permit pursuant to this rule must practice as follows:
 - (a) Any requirement of the laws or regulations of this state that a licensed practical nurse, as defined by O.C.G.A. § 43-26-32(5), must be directly supervised on-site by a registered professional nurse, as defined by O.C.G.A. § 43-26-3(9), who is party to a vaccine protocol agreement in order to administer vaccinations is hereby suspended to the extent necessary to allow licensed practical nurses to administer the COVID-19 vaccine without direct on-site supervision of a registered professional nurse, and with or without a vaccine protocol agreement.
 - (b) A licensed practical nurse administering the COVID-19 vaccine without direct on-site supervision must be remotely supervised by a physician, as defined by O.C.G.A. § 43-34-

1(2), a physician assistant, as defined by O.C.G.A. § 43-34-102(7), an advanced practice registered nurse, as defined by O.C.G.A. § 43-26-3(1.1), or a registered professional nurse, as defined by O.C.G.A. § 43-26-3(9), who is available to the licensed practical nurse by telephone or other electronic means as needed and must complete training regarding the handling and administration requirements for the COVID-19 vaccine as recommended by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

(7) The nurse administrator of facilities that employ nurses with COVID-19 Vaccine Temporary Permits must ensure that the COVID-19 Vaccine Temporary Permit holder has a valid temporary authorization to practice as a COVID-19 Vaccine administrator and does not continue to practice after expiration of the temporary permit.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4 (b)