

NCBOCE

News Update



April 06, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

We continue to operate and live under the effects of the current healthcare crisis and the effects on both our personal and professional lives. Let me begin by saying that on behalf of the Board, we wish all of you and your families well during this unprecedented period in time.

I wanted to reach out this morning to share with you that the Governor's office has confirmed under his Executive Order #121 that, "... **the Department has determined that it is in the best interests of the State for your business (Chiropractic offices) to continue operations in order to properly respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the Department grants your request and hereby designates your business essential.**" We are honored that the Governor values the Chiropractic Profession and its' contribution to the Healthcare profession and the citizens of North Carolina.

We also continue to receive specific practice related questions about a variety of tools to use in your practices at this time. The number one question is whether our providers should be wearing masks or gloves while they work on patients. As in the past weeks, we will continue to defer to the CDC guidelines on these and other questions. I will say that masks are now commonly being used by many chiropractors in offices across the state.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

Q & A:

- **Will the NCBOCE be changing our requirements for yearly CE allowing us to get ALL of our credits online?** At this point in time the Board has no plans to change that mandate.
- **Is the Board continuing to address disciplinary matters during this time?** The Board continues to fulfill its' mandate in this area with 3 probable cause hearings already scheduled this month.
- **What are my requirements if I close down my office during this time?** As previously mentioned, you are still required to provide referrals and timely records to your patients during this time. You CAN NOT close your offices without some direction for the patients under your care.

In closing I'd like to announce that Mr. Tom Sullivan is moving on from his position at the NC BOCE. He has provided exceptional leadership, administrative talent and financial discipline, over the past 5 years as the Executive Director of this Board. We have much to thank for Toms' efforts!

In his replacement, the Board has hired Dr. Joe Siragusa as the Interim Executive Director. Dr. Siragusa has been very active in the Chiropractic Profession including acting previously as the Board secretary and serving as the NCCA CEO. We appreciate Dr. Siragusa's willingness to come in and act as our Interim ED during this time of transition.

Respectfully,

Dr. Kevin Sharp
NC Board of Chiropractic President