

COVID-19 - Oregon Board of Pharmacy Information, March 13, 2020

Governor Kate Brown declared a 60-day [state of emergency](#) on March 8, 2020, to help the state prepare for the impacts of COVID-19 in Oregon and the US. At this time, COVID-19 is demonstrating sustained person-to-person community spread and on 3/12/2020, Governor Brown [announced](#) urgent strategies to slow the spread of the virus throughout the state. Federal and state health officials are emphasizing mitigation strategies to keep communities safe, focusing on older people and people with chronic diseases who are at higher risk of complications.

Oregon Pharmacy Impacts

[Oregon Administrative Rule Division 007 – Public Health Emergency](#) is in effect for all Oregon pharmacies, as of 3/8/2020. In accordance with the nature of this COVID-19 pandemic, the focus is minimization of individuals in close contact with one another (“social distancing”). As this is an evolving situation, pharmacists and pharmacies should continue to care for their patients in a manner that assures access and safety. All state and federal pharmacy regulations remain in effect.

- Division 007 addresses drug distribution and dispensing
- A pharmacy may deliver or mail medications to patients (permitted any time)
- The Oregon Board of Pharmacy (OBOP) is prepared to issue Temporary Pharmacy registrations, but only in the event of mass drug distribution needs
- Pharmacies and health-systems need to do what is necessary to treat patients and manage employee health. For the declared emergency timeframe only, if minimization of on-site personnel is needed, pharmacy may consider remote processing functions. If applicable, pharmacy shall download and complete [Remote Processing Checklist](#):
 - Checklist P&Ps must be created and followed, but DO NOT NEED TO BE APPROVED BY OBOP prior to use; maintain on-site at the pharmacy
 - This means formal waivers are NOT necessary for these function during the declared emergency timeframe
- Technicians must be working in a pharmacy at the direction and control and under the supervision of a pharmacist – if staff minimization/reduction becomes critical, then it must be a pharmacist that physically functions at a pharmacy (not a technician working unsupervised)
- If it becomes necessary, pharmacists have the authority to issue emergency refills of prescription drugs during the declared emergency and may assist in the storage and distribution of drugs from the Strategic National Stockpile.

Conditions and guidance are changing rapidly. Pharmacists should maintain up-to-date information on this evolving public health emergency to provide the public with factual and detailed information to help reduce the spread of this virus, particularly to vulnerable persons.

The board will continue to provide updates as conditions evolve and trusts that you will take care of yourselves, your families, your patients, and your communities. We will get through this unprecedented situation together!

Additional COVID-19 resources:

- [Oregon Health Authority](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [FDA Letter to HCPs](#) regarding PPE conservation
- [COVID-19: Downstream Implications for Sterile Compounding](#). PPE guidance from Critical Point (Note: this webinar is shared for information purposes only and does not constitute an OBOP endorsement)
- [CDC Hospital Preparedness Assessment Tool](#)

Joe Schnabel, Pharm.D, R.Ph.
Executive Director, Oregon Board of Pharmacy