

Whereas on January 31, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency retroactive to January 27, 2020, for the entire United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to the 2019 novel coronavirus; and

Whereas on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States determined that the spread of COVID-19 within our Nation’s communities threatens to strain our Nation’s healthcare systems and proclaimed under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constituted a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020; and

Whereas on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared that the ongoing Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the “Stafford Act”); and

Whereas on April 9, 2020, the President of United States declared a major disaster in the State of Alaska related to COVID-19 and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts pending in the areas affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing; and

Whereas on January 7, 2021, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as a result of the continued consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, after consultation with public health officials as necessary and pursuant to authority under section 319 of the Public Health Services Act, renewed effective January 21, 2021, the January 31, 2020, determination that had been previously renewed on April 21, 2020, July 23, 2020, and October 2, 2020, that a public health emergency exists and has existed nationwide since January 27, 2020; and

Whereas the Indian Health Service (IHS) and its tribal health partners seek to maximize the number of qualified and capable health care workers to prepare for and respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic throughout Alaska, and particularly in rural Alaska, and it is anticipated that Community Health Aides, Behavioral Health Aides, and Dental Health Aides or other providers certified by the Alaska Community Health Aide Certification Board, may continue to be unable to satisfy their continuing education and certification requirements in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**** TEMPORARY EMERGENCY NOTICE AND EXTENSION REGARDING PROVIDER CERTIFICATES ****

- 1) Certificates set to expire under CB 2.50.100 (Expiration) in June 2020, and which were extended and valid for a period of 180 additional days in accordance with the Temporary Emergency Notice and Extension Regarding Provider Certificates dated May 26, 2020, are extended and valid for a period of an additional 180 days. This applies only to valid, unexpired certificates and does not alter or effect the other conditions or scope of practice.

- 2) For certificates set to expire in June 2020, and for which a prior temporary and emergency extension of an additional 180 days has already been issued dated May 26, 2020, all requirements for renewal under CB 2.50.200 (Requirements for Renewal) are extended for a period of an additional 180 days. Continuing education completed since the most recent certification shall remain valid during any period of extension.
- 3) The extensions above do not apply to CB 2.50.300 (Reinstatement or Renewal of a Lapsed Certificate) or to the two year continuing education timeframes in Chapter 3 pertaining to lapsed certificates.
- 4) This Emergency Notice and Extension does not alter or permit any provider to provide services beyond the scope allowed in accordance with the Community Health Aide Program Certification Board (CHAPCB) Standards and Procedures as applied to each distinct type of provider;
- 5) This Emergency Notice and Extension does not alter or amend any supervisory or employment related requirements otherwise set forth in the CHAPCB Standards and Procedures as applied to each distinct type of provider;
- 6) The Alaska Area Native Health Service – Indian Health Service, or CHAPCB, may still address any individual provider certificate or certificates or credentials for reasons set forth in the CHAPCB Standards and Procedures, including under Chapters 4 or 9, or as otherwise authorized by law.

Community Health Aides, Behavioral Health Aides, and Dental Health Aides affected by this Temporary Emergency Notice and Extension are strongly encouraged, to the extent safe and practicable, to: (a) complete re-certification and continuing education requirements as soon as possible; and (b) submit appropriate materials to the CHAPCB as far in advance as possible.