



May 5, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Ambulatory Surgical Facilities  
Community Residential Care Facilities  
Day Care Facilities for Adults  
Facilities that Treat Individuals for Psychoactive Substance Abuse or Dependence  
Home Health Agencies  
Hospices  
Hospitals and Institutional General Infirmaries  
Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities  
Nursing Homes  
Renal Dialysis Facilities  
Residential Treatment Facilities for Children and Adolescents

**FROM:** Gwen C. Thompson, Director of Healthcare Quality

**SUBJECT:** AHA Waiver for CPR Certification Extensions

On March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster issued Executive Order No. 2020-08, which declared a State of Emergency in South Carolina based on the determination that the 2019 novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) was an imminent public health threat. Subsequently, on March 17, 2020, Governor McMaster issued Executive Order No. 2020-10, which directed state agencies to take appropriate actions regarding provisions of existing regulations that in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency. On March 28, 2020, April 12, 2020, and April 27, 2020, Governor McMaster issued Executive Orders No. 2020-15, 2020-23, and 2020-29, respectively, which further extended the State of Emergency.

In anticipation of difficulties in obtaining recertification training and card renewals during the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Heart Association (AHA) released a Waiver featuring [Updated Interim Guidance on Card Extensions during the COVID-19 Outbreak](#) on March 31, 2020, which extended AHA Instructor and Provider Course Completion Cards for 120 days beyond their recommended renewal dates, beginning with cards that expired in March 2020.

**The Department of Health and Environmental Control (“DHEC”) hereby recognizes the AHA’s extension for CPR certifications that are 120 days or less past expiration, as of March 2020, as being satisfactory for compliance with facility licensure regulations.**

This memorandum expires upon expiration of the State of Emergency and is subject to modification or revocation at DHEC’s discretion.