



New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Toney Anaya Building ▪ 2550 Cerrillos Road ▪ Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
Information (505) 476-4500 ▪ Direct (505) 476-4508 ▪ Fax (505) 476-4511

Michelle Lujan Grisham
GOVERNOR

Marguerite Salazar
SUPERINTENDENT

Claudia Armijo
DEPUTY
SUPERINTENDENT

Priscilla Garcia
DIRECTOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

**MASSAGE THERAPY BOARD
REGARDING APPROVAL FOR DISTANCE
EDUCATION
DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY**

Due to the public health emergency declared by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in Executive Order 2020-004, and in response to a directive from the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) and the Department of Health advisory for social distancing, the Massage Therapy Board (Board) is issuing the following public notice:

- The NMHED has assessed that the public health emergency indicates that state-authorized private post-secondary educational institutions may need to cease face-to-face instruction to protect the well-being of students, staff and faculty.
- The State of New Mexico, through NMHED, is granting an emergency waiver to all state-authorized private post-secondary educational institutions to offer distance education to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- The emergency waiver grants immediate approval for distance education within New Mexico through April 30, 2020.
- The Board is requiring qualifying institutions offering qualified programs leading to licensure to notify the Board and NMHED of any newly implemented distance education methods.
- NMHED and the Board will provide instructions to request approval for continued distance education beyond that date if it becomes necessary.
- If your institution does not have the ability to offer distance learning options to students, and if scheduled classes are postponed instead, your institution must notify NMHED, the Board, and all relevant state agencies of such plans as soon as possible.

Alcohol and Gaming Division
(505) 476-4875

Boards and Commissions Division
(505) 476-4600

Construction Industries Division
(505) 476-4700

Financial Institutions Division
(505) 476-4885

Manufactured Housing Division
(505) 476-4770

Securities Division
(505) 476-4580

Administrative Services Division
(505) 476-4800

- Institutions shall notify its students about any changes in instructional methods and send a copy of such notifications and any other pertinent information to the Board and any relevant state agencies.
- Parameters of Immediate Approval - All state-authorized private post-secondary educational institutions with a physical presence in New Mexico may use any of the following distance education methods within New Mexico:
 - Web services such as Google Classroom
 - Collaborative platforms such as Microsoft Teams
 - Video conferencing such as Google Meet, Zoom or GoToMeeting
 - Audio conferencing

Compliance with approving Agencies

New Mexico state-authorized private post-secondary educational institutions that require approval by other agencies must ensure they remain in compliance with the standards, regulations, or rules of those approving agencies. These are:

- Accrediting Agencies
- U.S. Department of Education
- Private post-secondary educational institutions approved for Title IV funding, please see the following link:

<https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19>

Private post-secondary educational institutions offering programs leading to licensure shall be granted this emergency waiver with any of the listed distance education methods described above with the exception of CPR courses and technique courses