



MEMORANDUM

To: Licensees & Interested Parties

From: Malcolm J Broussard, Executive Director

Date: March 26, 2020

Re: Flexible Staffing Ratios During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

During their March 25 meeting, the Board approved a waiver of the existing rules for staffing ratios for pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician candidates. The current existing rules provide for the following staffing ratios:

- One pharmacist may supervise one pharmacy intern (1:1);
- One pharmacist may supervise one pharmacy technician candidate (1:1); and
- One pharmacist may supervise as many as three certified pharmacy technicians, or in the alternative, if there is one pharmacy technician candidate present, then the pharmacist may supervise up to two certified pharmacy technicians (flexible 3:1).

Thus, one pharmacist may now supervise up to four licensed persons, as well as an unlimited number of unlicensed persons.

The Board determined it appropriate to allow the supervising pharmacist to adjust the ratios of different categories of personnel as long as the present maximum of four licensed persons is maintained. For example, the pharmacist may supervise four interns, or two interns and two technicians, or three technicians and one candidate, or any other 'mix-and-match' four-person combination, as well as the unlimited number of unlicensed persons.

The Board determined it appropriate to maintain the definition of 'direct and immediate supervision'. The pharmacist supervising the personnel need not maintain line of sight, but shall remain on-site. On-site includes a multi-level building such as a hospital or a single level building spanning any size.

Finally, the Board determined it appropriate to terminate this rule waiver upon the earliest of the following two dates: (1) the termination of the Governor's proclamation of the COVID-19 public health emergency **or** (2) September 30, 2020. If the date certain precedes the termination of the proclamation, the Board could determine to extend the rule waiver.

NOTICE: In compliance with Act 256 of the 2019 Louisiana Legislature, the Board gives public notice that any information submitted to the Board may become public record unless specifically exempted by the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 *et seq.*

NOTICE: In compliance with Act 655 of the 2018 Louisiana Legislature, the Board gives notice to its licensees and applicants of their opportunity to file a complaint about the Board's actions or procedures. You may submit such complaints to one or more of the following: (1) Louisiana Board of Pharmacy; 3388 Brentwood Dr., Baton Rouge, La 70809; 225.925.6496; info@pharmacy.la.gov (2) Committee on House & Governmental Affairs; La. House of Representatives; PO Box 44486; Baton Rouge, LA 70804; 225.342.2403; h&ga@legis.la.gov (3) Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs; La. Senate; PO Box 94183; Baton Rouge, LA 70804; 225.342.9845; s&g@legis.la.gov