

December 1, 2020

Dear Illinois Dental Hygienist,

The expiration date for Dental Hygiene licensure is September 30, 2021. A licensee may renew their license during the month preceding the September 30, 2021 expiration date by paying the required fee, certifying their BLS certification is current, and demonstrating compliance with the continuing education requirements as set by rule. Under current rules, 68 Illinois Administrative Code Section 1220.440, **in the 36-month period prior to September 30, 2021, Dental Hygienists shall complete 36 hours of approved continuing education (CE). A minimum of 50% of the total CE hours required, 18 hours, must be obtained through face-to-face, in-person instruction or experience**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department has become aware that opportunities for in-person CE courses have diminished and as a result, licensees may not be able to complete their in-person CE requirements. For this reason, the Department has drafted proposed Emergency Rules to temporarily remove the in-person requirement. **The Department intends to submit such rules to go into effect in May 2021, approximately 150 days prior to the September 30, 2021 licensure expiration date. Until such time, this Guidance should be referenced when determining Dental Hygiene CE requirements. The Department intends that all 36 CE hours required for the September 2021 renewal may be completed online either by live, real-time presentations, or through prerecorded video provided by approved CE sponsors.**

This solves any potential issues with securing the necessary CE hours during the pandemic but **does not** address the Basic Life Support (BLS). If the IDFPR makes any adjustments to the BLS requirements, the IDHA will make that announcement. IDHA President, Sherri Foran, brought up this situation to the IDFPR during the IL Board of Dentistry meeting on December 1, 2020 was given the response that IDFPR has not made **any changes to the in-person clinical training** of the CPR requirement and there are several agencies that are offering this portion of CPR in a very safe environment. **CPR certification shall continue to be required to contain an in-person portion the BLS healthcare provider training.**

## Resource

[The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation](#)