



**WASHINGTON STATE**  
**CHIROPRACTIC QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 6, 2020**

**This was a public meeting that was held online**

**Commission Members In Attendance:**

David Folweiler, DC, Chair, Judy Colenso, Public Member, Vice-Chair, Michael Bostjancic, DC, Vice-Chair, Susan Jensen, JD, Executive Committee Public Member, Maria Best, DC, Susan Bogni, Public Member, Brian Chan, DC, Stephen Chan, DC, Dana Clum, DC, William Davis, DC, Doug Long, DC, Gabe (Gary) Smith, DC, Matthew Waldron, DC, and Vanessa Wise, DC.

**Staff In Attendance:**

Bob Nicoloff, Commission Executive Director  
Jenny Yeam, Commission Licensing and Compliance Manager  
Tammy Kelley, Commission Credentialing and Disciplinary Manager  
Marlee O'Neill, DOH Legal Services Deputy Director  
Christopher Gerard, Assistant Attorney General  
Cori Tarzwell, DOH Policy Analyst

**OPEN SESSION – Monday, April 6, 2020**

**7:00 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Dr. Folweiler**

**7:00 p.m.**

**1.1** The agenda was approved as submitted.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO  
CHIROPRACTORS REGARDING PRACTICES DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS  
– Dr. Folweiler, Chair**

**2.1** The Commission reviewed a draft document that provides additional guidance for Washington chiropractors regarding practices and approaches that could further reduce public and provider exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

**2.2** After considering member comments and comments from the public, the Commission adopted the new guidance document [\*COVID-19 Alert for Doctors of Chiropractic\*](#). (This document is attached to these minutes.)

**3. CONSIDERATION OF TEMPORARY OPTIONS REGARDING CHIROPRACTIC X-RAY TECHNICIAN CONTINUING EDUCATION IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS**  
– Dr. Folweiler, Chair, and Christopher Gerard, Assistant Attorney General

- 3.1 The Commission reviewed an email from Dr. Susan Vlasuk describing how the COVID-19 crisis has impacted course availability for chiropractic x-ray technicians to complete annual required continuing education.
- 3.2 Christopher Gerard reviewed options available to the Commission for temporarily addressing chiropractic x-ray technician continuing education provisions in [WAC 246-808-215](#).
- 3.3 After approving a temporary policy to reduce the required chiropractic x-ray technician continuing education during the COVID-19 crisis, the Commission was informed of other online courses that are available. As a result, the Commission decided to rescind the temporary policy, and the current chiropractic x-ray technician continuing education requirements were left unchanged.

**4.0 CONSIDERATION OF EMERGENCY RULE LANGUAGE TO ADOPT PROVISIONS IN THE COMMISSION’S TEMPORARY POLICY ON CHIROPRACTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION**

– Bob Nicoloff, Executive Director, and Christopher Gerard, Assistant Attorney General

- 4.1 On March 19, 2020, the Commission adopted temporary policy CH-3-24-20 [COVID-19 and Continuing Education For Chiropractors](#). The Commission reviewed proposed changes to incorporate the provisions of the policy into [WAC 246-808-150](#) through an emergency rule process.
- 4.2 After discussion, the Commission approved the following underlined rule addition:

**WAC 246-808-150 Commission approved continuing education.**

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(8) A chiropractor may earn a maximum of twelve hours for:

- (a) Completing a multimedia chiropractic education program, which includes, but is not limited to, the internet, teleseminars, employer led training, and audio or video presentations. However, chiropractors whose licenses expire between March 19, 2020 and one hundred twenty (120) days after the date the Governor issues a proclamation declaring the termination of the state of emergency declared by Proclamation 20-05, or as amended by any subsequent amendatory proclamations, are not subject to the twelve (12) hour restriction for continuing education programs identified in this subsection.

**5.0 UPDATE ON THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION – Commission Staff**

- 5.1 The Commission received an update from staff on temporary changes to Commission operations to address challenges resulting from COVID-19.

5.2 The Commission discussed delegating to a temporary subcommittee, made up of the chair and vice chairs, the consideration and decision making regarding COVID-19 issues that require immediate attention. Meetings of the subcommittee would be open under the Open Public Meetings Act.

The Commission approved the creation of the temporary subcommittee by a vote of 12 to 2, with Dr. Wise and Dr. Clum opposed.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

6.1 The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.



July 9, 2020

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**Prepared By: Robert Nicoloff, Executive Director**

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**Date**



July 9, 2020

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**Approved By: David Folweiler, DC, Chair**

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**Date**



State of Washington  
Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission  
April 6, 2020

## COVID-19 Alert for Doctors of Chiropractic

### Doctors of Chiropractic should be aware that there is:

- Community transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 among people who are pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic and contagious.
- High risk of severe disease in persons older than 60 years and in those with underlying health conditions.
- No procedure to eliminate the risk of person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in a chiropractic setting.

Governor Inslee issued [proclamation 20-25](#), which allows health care providers to continue delivery of essential services. In the interest of controlling spread of COVID-19, delivery of treatment should be limited to patients with a clear and documentable urgent health need. Providers should consider if services can be appropriately provided via telehealth.

### Actions requested:

- Only provide chiropractic care to patients with urgent health issues. All other care should be postponed.
- When appropriate, deliver care via telehealth and/or advise patients to implement self-care measures until the restrictions on non-essential activities are lifted.
- Prior to allowing patients, staff, and providers into the clinic, screen for symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g. fever, cough, difficulty breathing). Consider taking their temperature to screen for fever. If symptomatic, they should be sent home and/or to the appropriate provider.
- Ensure appropriate physical distancing of a minimum of six feet between people in the clinic.
- The provider and staff should strongly consider wearing a face covering when within six feet of another person. Consider having patients wear a face covering.
- Closely follow [CDC guidelines for hand hygiene](#) and clean equipment and facilities between patients.
- If necessary to maintain physical distancing, ask patients to wait outside the clinic until the previous patient has departed and the clinic has been cleaned. Stagger patient appointments so that there is less opportunity for contact between patients from different households. Bring patients directly into the treatment area/room as quickly as possible.
- If continuing to sign patients in, use a single sheet of paper for each patient.
- Allow all employees who are uncomfortable with continuing to work in the clinic to stay home or work remotely, if possible.

### Background:

The virus causing coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19), emerged in December 2019 and has since spread around the world causing a global pandemic. Eighty percent of cases are mild, but severe disease and deaths are more common in the elderly (older than 60 years) and in those with underlying health conditions. Health experts are concerned that increasing transmission in our state and an increase in severe disease will limit the ability of our healthcare system to provide urgent care to all who require it.

### Additional resources for Doctors of Chiropractic:

[DOH Workplace Recommendations](#)

[DOH Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Web Page](#)

[CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Web Page](#)

[CDC Practice Preparedness Resources](#)

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