

Options for Practicing as a Nurse in Washington State

Option	Description and Clarification	Timeline
Ability to practice as a volunteer healthcare provider (not a license or permit)	The Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioner Act allows individuals already licensed in another state, as long as they are in good standing, to be approved to practice in Washington State. This option allows an individual registered in the emergency volunteer practitioner system to practice in Washington State while the Governor declared emergency proclamation is in effect. To apply, volunteers must register online with DOH's Volunteer Provider Unit. Questions may be emailed to waserv2@doh.wa.gov .	24-48 hours
Temporary Practice Permits (RNs, LPNs, and ARNPs)	Issued to nurses who have applied for a permanent license in Washington State and have met all licensure requirements, except for the FBI fingerprints. The fingerprint process takes time to complete, which is why a temporary practice permit is issued as soon as requirements are met. Please Note: All nurses who have been issued a temporary practice permit are expected to complete their FBI fingerprints as soon as possible to avoid closure of their pending application for their full license. FBI fingerprint instructions are on the NCQAC licensure webpage. Applicants may not complete the fingerprint process until they have applied with Washington State and have a pending credential number.	2-8 weeks (completely dependent upon volume)
Washington State License by Interstate Endorsement (RN and LPN)	Issued to nurses who have applied through the online application portal , have an active license in another U.S. state, and completed all Washington State endorsement licensure requirements , including the FBI fingerprints. A temporary practice permit will automatically be issued by the Nursing Commission after the application has been reviewed (does not need to be requested).	4-10 weeks (dependent upon the completion of requirements)
Washington State License by Examination (RN and LPN)	Issued to nurses who have applied through the online application portal , have graduated from an approved nursing education program, and completed all Washington State examination licensure requirements , including passing of the NCLEX.	4+ weeks (dependent upon passing of the NCLEX)
Emergency Interim Permit (for new graduates only)	Issued upon request to recent nursing graduates who have applied through the online application portal , have graduated from an approved nursing education program, have sent official transcripts with degree posted to the Nursing Commission, and have registered for the NCLEX through Pearson Vue .	Dependent upon receipt of requirements
Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) License	Issued to nurses who have applied through the online application portal , have an active Washington State RN license, and completed all Washington State ARNP licensure requirements .	4-10 weeks
Nursing Technician Registration	Issued to nursing students preparing for RN licensure who meet the requirements of RCW 18.79.340 and have applied online through the online application portal (must submit employment and education verification forms with the online application).	2-4 weeks

Please Note: Omission of required documentation results in delays to the licensure process. It is important for applicants to read all requirements and submit everything to the Nursing Commission. Expedited applications may **ONLY** be requested by an approved Washington State healthcare facility for COVID-19 emergency staffing needs on the NCQAC Expedited Application Request form sent to all qualifying facilities.