

Department of Health
Office of the Secretary

Notice of Adoption – Policy Statement

Title: License Renewals for Health Care Providers Responding to or Impacted by Wildfire Emergency
| WF 2026-01.1

Issuing Entity: Department of Health

Subject Matter: To ensure that health care providers impacted by or responding to the proclaimed wildfire emergency under Proclamation 26-03 issued August 1, 2026, Proclamation 26-03.1 issued August 10, 2026, and Proclamation 26-03.2 issued August 31, 2026 can focus fully on patient care and continued patient safety during the wildfires, the Department of Health (department) is exercising enforcement discretion, providing extended license renewal deadlines, and granting extension requests for providers. The department originally issued policy statement WF 2026-01 on August 31, 2026, under WSR 26-18-056. This revised version removes an unnecessary date.

Effective Date: September 8, 2026

Contact: To request a renewal deadline extension for a provider license renewal, please contact the call center at 360-236-4700 or email hsqa.csc@doh.wa.gov with the subject line “Wildfire Declaration Emergency Extension” by 30 days after the end of the declared state of emergency.

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
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Washington State Department of Health

Office of the Secretary

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Policy Statement

Title:	License Renewals for Health Care Providers Responding to or Impacted by Wildfire Emergency
Policy Statement Number:	WF 2026-01.1
References:	Emergency Proclamation 26-03.1, 26-03.2, and RCW 43.70.280
Effective Date:	September 8, 2026
Supersedes:	WF 2026-01
Approved By:	Dennis E. Worsham, Secretary of Health

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson issued Proclamation 26.03¹ on August 1, 2026, Proclamation 26-03.1² on August 10, 2026, and Proclamation 26-03.2³ on August 31, 2026 proclaiming a statewide state of emergency due to wildfires in Eastern and Central Washington. Health care workers responding to or impacted by this emergency need to keep their focus on patient care during this emergency. Some of these individuals will have their health profession licenses expire during the time of this statewide state of emergency.

The Department of Health (department) issued policy statement WF 2026-01 on August 31, 2026, under WSR 26-18-056 to address this issue. This revised version of the policy statement removes a confusing and unnecessary date of September 30, 2026.

AUTHORITY

¹ <https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/26-03%20-%20Wildfires%20-%20Burn%20Ban.pdf>

² <https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/26-03.1%20-%20Wildfires%20-%20Immediate%20Relief%20and%20Response.pdf>

³ <https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/26-03.2%20-%20Wildfires%20-%20IA%2C%20FEAP%2C%20Recovery%20%28tmp%29.pdf>

Washington law, RCW 43.70.280(2), allows the Secretary of Health (Secretary) to extend the duration of any licensing, certification, or registration period, including those for health care providers, if the secretary determines that it would result in a more economical or efficient operation of state government and that the public health, safety, or welfare would not be substantially adversely affected thereby. Governor Ferguson's Proclamation 26-03.1 provides the Secretary authority to take such action without agency rulemaking.

SCOPE AND DURATION

During the time period of Governor Ferguson's proclaimed state of emergency and to support health care providers responding to or impacted by the wildfires, the department takes the action described herein to ensure impacted health care providers can focus fully on patient care and continued patient safety during the wildfires.

GUIDANCE ON HEALTH PROFESSION LICENSE RENEWALS

With respect to any health care provider in good standing who is impacted by or responding to the proclaimed emergency and whose license expires during the proclaimed state of emergency:

- (1) The Secretary of Health will exercise enforcement discretion and not take action for practicing with an expired license against the provider as long as the provider renews their license within 30 days after the end of the proclaimed state of emergency;
- (2) Pursuant to RCW 43.70.280(2), the Secretary of Health will automatically extend license renewal deadlines for providers impacted by or responding to the proclaimed emergency. These providers will be required to renew their licenses within 30 days after the end of the proclaimed state of emergency to avoid being charged a late penalty; and
- (3) Pursuant to RCW 43.70.280(2), the Secretary of Health will grant a request for an extension of the provider's license renewal deadline until 30 days after the end of the proclaimed state of emergency for those providers impacted by or responding to the proclaimed emergency that were not included in the automatic extension.

To request a renewal deadline extension as described in (3) under the Guidance On Health Profession License Renewals section of this policy statement, contact the call center at 360-236-4700 or email hsqa.csc@doh.wa.gov with the subject line "Wildfire Declaration Emergency Extension" by 30 days after the end of the declared state of emergency. The department will notify those providers included

in the automatic license renewal date extension described in (2) under the Guidance On Health Profession License Renewals section of this policy statement.