

# DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

## Department of Health Board of Optometry Examiners

2020-21 Continuing Education (LAC 46:LI.301)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950, et seq., and pursuant to the authority vested in the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners by the Optometry Practice Act, R.S. 37:1041-1068, the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners declares an emergency to exist and hereby adopts by emergency process the attached regulations to supersede the current permanent regulations found at Title 46, Part LI:301. The implementation of these regulations by the emergency process is necessary to protect the public health and safety of licensed optometrists during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The implementation of this Emergency Rule waives all continuing education requirements for calendar year 2020.

This Emergency Rule shall become effective upon signature and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedures Act, R.S. 49:950, et seq.

### **Title 46 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS**

#### **Part LI. Optometrists**

#### **Chapter 3. License**

#### **§301. Continuing Education**

A. Each licensed optometrist shall comply with the following continuing education requirements.

1. Standard optometry license holders and diagnostic pharmaceutical certificate holders shall complete between January 1 and December 31 of each calendar year at least 12 hours of continuing education courses., of which a minimum of 10 hours must be obtained in a classroom setting, approved by the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners; provided, however, a minimum of 9 of 12 hours must be obtained in a classroom setting in the calendar year in which an optometrist holding a controlled dangerous substance license satisfies the one-time continuing education requirement for controlled dangerous substances set forth in §303.

2. License holders authorized to diagnose and treat pathology and use and prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents shall complete between January 1 and December 31 of each calendar year at least 16 hours of continuing education courses., of which a minimum of 14 hours must be obtained in a classroom setting, approved by the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners, and of which at least eight classroom hours shall consist of matters related to ocular and systemic pharmacology and current diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease; provided, however, a minimum of 13 of 16 hours must be obtained in a classroom setting in the calendar year in which an optometrist holding a controlled dangerous substance license satisfies the one-time continuing education requirement for controlled dangerous substances set forth in §303. Such certificate holders will be entitled to apply the CPR continuing education to their required annual continuing education, provided that such CPR continuing education shall not count toward the required eight classroom hours related to ocular and system

pharmacology and current diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease, and provided further that no more than two hours of CPR continuing education may be applied to the continuing education requirement in any two calendar year periods. The eight hours of continuing education relating to ocular and systemic pharmacology and/or current diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease shall be obtained solely from the following sources:

- a. the American Optometric Association;
- b. any state optometric association affiliated with the American Optometric Association;
- c. Great Western Council of Optometry, Mountain West Council of Optometrists, North Central States Optometric Council, and Southern Council of Optometrists;
- d. the American Academy of Optometry; or
- e. schools and colleges of optometry accredited by the American Optometric Association Accreditation Council on Optometric Education.

3. For the 2020 calendar year:

a. all continuing education (CE) requirements are waived, and no action is required to receive this hardship CE exemption for the upcoming March 1, 2021, license renewal.

4. For the 2021 calendar year:

a. all continuing education (CE) requirements remain in effect.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1048.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Optometry Examiners, LR 32:631 (April 2006), amended LR 35:1111 (June 2009), LR 38:1590 (July 2012), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Optometry Examiners, LR 44:1248 (July 2018), amended LR 46:23 (January 2020), LR 47:

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Secretary

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