

Dear Current Licensees,

May 6, 2020

This e-mail is to inform you that due to the unprecedented current situation related to the COVID-19 virus, the Board will be voting at its next scheduled board meeting to extend the 60 day grace period to 90 days and waive any late fee that would be incurred. Also, if any licenses would lapse during this extension and your license renewal time frame, the board will waive the requirement of passing the national exam for license reinstatement. This will be retroactive to the March 31, 2020 renewal period.

The Board understands the financial hardships that have been created in regards to this pandemic. The State of Emergency that was called by Governor Justice in March authorizes the Board to vote on these issues. During the State of Emergency in June 2016 regarding the flooding in WV, the Board also waived late fees for an extended period of time.

Just as an FYI, the Board has contacted the Governor's office to express the concerns that massage therapists have in relation to the wording of massage parlors in the re-opening of business presentations. It was recommended to use establishments instead of parlors.

Massage therapists are included in the re-opening schedule of Week 3 to 6. The governor's office will be providing updates one week prior to the re-opening phases. Week 2 began on May 4<sup>th</sup> and an update will be provided subsequently one week prior to re-opening. Things can change on a daily basis so please refer to the governor's daily briefings or his website for any updates on re-opening.

We will post a definitive date on our website as soon as it has been determined, as well as any other information that we can provide to you. Please take this time to prepare and have all of the necessary items and precautionary measures that you will need to re-open.

A link to the American Bodywork and Massage Professionals (ABMP) is provided on our website for guidance and best practices for re-opening. The site also includes information for financial assistance programs.

We want you to know that we are here to assist you in any manner that we possibly can. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,  
Linda Lyter  
Executive Director

John Skelton  
Board President