



Illinois Board of Higher Education

JB Pritzker, Governor

John Atkinson, Chair • Ginger Ostro, Executive Director

NOTIFICATION FROM THE ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IBHE) FOR PRIVATE BUSINESS AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) IMPACTING INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS

IBHE has prepared the following information and resources in response to matters pertaining to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

All private business and vocational schools (PBVS) approved by the IBHE currently must obtain authorization prior to changing the mode of delivery for approved programs/courses as outlined in the Private Business and Vocational Schools Act of 2012 (“PBVS Act”) (105 ILCS 426 et seq.) and Illinois Administrative Rules (23 Illinois Administrative Code 1095). However, in the interest of public health and safety, the IBHE is temporarily allowing PBVS to offer alternative instruction methods if the PBVS deems online instruction or temporary closure of the institution is necessary through May 31, 2020. During this time period, the IBHE requires immediate notification of any changes to the normal academic operations of PBVS entities including, but not limited to, changes to modality, program/course cancellations, and temporary closure. To facilitate the notification process, please complete this [online form](#).

Furthermore, IBHE urges institutions to be as flexible as possible and to make reasonable and necessary accommodations for students, during the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation¹, including but not limited to offering online instruction, program/course cancellations, or temporary closures. If an institution is unable to reduce or suspend face-to-face class sessions, the IBHE strongly encourages the institution to follow the President’s Recommendation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, and the Illinois Department of Public Health’s guidelines regarding limiting gatherings to no more than 10 people in a single space or room and staying at least six (6) feet away from another person. The IBHE further recommends staggering class schedules and limiting the number of students in a classroom, if possible. Lastly, Institutions should communicate all institutional response plans to the COVID-19 pandemic in a timely manner to their campus community.

For information and resources regarding the Coronavirus, refer to the following:

- U.S Department of Education: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>
- Higher Learning Commission: <https://www.hlcommission.org/General/changes-toeducationalofferings-due-to-the-coronavirus.html?highlight=WyJjb3JvbmF2aXJ1cyJd>
- Illinois Department of Public Health: <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Interim Guidance for Administrators of U.S. Institutions of Higher Education: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidanceiheresponse.html>

^[1] See Illinois Executive Order in Response to COVID-19 (COVID-10 Executive Order No.2) at <https://www2.illinois.gov/Documents/ExecOrders/2020/ExecutiveOrder-2020-04.pdf> and a copy of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/Documents/APPROVED%20-%20Coronavirus%20Disaster%20Proc%20WORD.pdf>

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/summary.html>
- [The President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health and IL Nurse Aid Competency Exam – BNATP Instruction](#)
- [IDFPR License Renewal Options and Variance for Massage Therapy Schools](#)
- [Guidance from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [FAQ’s from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [COVID-19 Question and Answer from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [COVID-19: Guidance for SEVP Stakeholders](#)
- [FSA added an announcement on StudentAid.gov to inform students, parents, and borrowers about important updates regarding federal financial aid in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID19\).](#)

Should documentation be required by your accrediting body or the U.S. Department of Education, please use this IBHE notification.

If you have any questions or need clarification, send an email to PBVS_Apps@ibhe.org.

Additionally, **COMPLAINTS AGAINST AN INSTITUTION MAY BE REGISTERED WITH THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION** at <http://complaints.ibhe.org/>