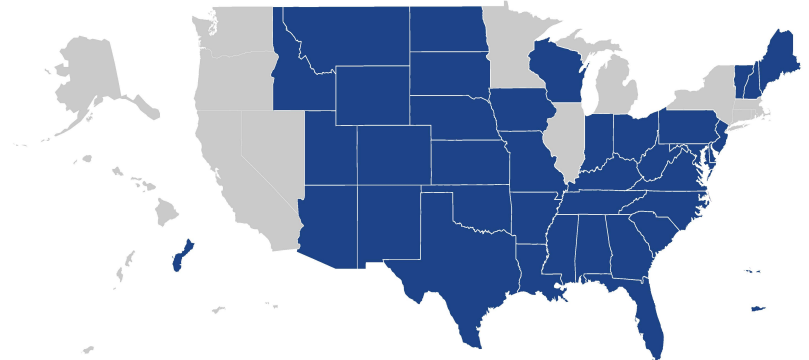


The NLC is a Key Tool in Assisting States During COVID-19

"In the health care arena, the ability to respond quickly is correlated to reducing long-term health issues and saving lives. Expediting the process has absolutely enabled us to move people appropriately where they are needed"

-Mary Beth Russell, PhD, MA, RN, NPD-BC, NEA-BC,
New Jersey



Emergency Response to COVID-19

- The magnitude of COVID-19 caught many states by surprise. Healthcare workers, particularly nurses, were needed even before many states had a chance to formally react to the virus.
 - Hospitals in compact states were able to recruit nurses to practice immediately to address the sudden increase in hospital admissions.
 - Hospitals in non-compact states were forced to wait for nurses to get licenses before they could bring in out of state help.
 - All governors declared a state of emergency during the onset of the pandemic and most issued executive orders that exempted licensure in some form to bring healthcare professional in as fast as possible. However, unlike the NLC, which allowed nurses to enter compact states immediately, non-compact state needed to wait for that executive order address licensure barriers.
- While most governors exempted healthcare licensure in some form, none of those exemptions required a criminal background check to be done. Criminal background checks are take time and states needed the license to start practicing immediately. Compact nurses have already been background checked and discipline information is shared among compact states, so when a compact nurse enters a compact state to practice the state knows that the nurse has been background checked and has no active discipline.
- The various emergency orders, legislative actions, and rules and regulations create a complex legal web that practitioners and facilities must untangle to assure compliance. The NLC affords stability to providers and facilities alike—a multistate licensee can practice in any of the NLC party states.
 - Enacted or promulgated at various times and each with a set or unknown expiration date also added further confusion.