

To: Long-Term Care Providers, Temporary Nurse Aides

From: Office of Health Care Facilities

Date: August 16, 2021

Subject: Tennessee Temporary Nurse Aide Bridge Program

This memo explains how individuals, who have worked as temporary nurse aides (TNAs) during the COVID-19 public health emergency, can transition to permanent status as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and be placed on the Nurse Aide Registry.

Bridge Program and Attestation Process

To enable Temporary Nurse Aides to submit the information necessary to be placed on the Nurse Aide Registry as a CNA, the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) has created an online submission process, which can be accessed on the TDH website. Individual TNAs (or the facilities for which they are working) must use this online process to provide the information necessary, and attest that the information submitted is truthful and accurate.

Deadlines for Temporary Nurse Aide Bridge Program

The Temporary Nurse Aide Bridge Program is a temporary program and will end based on the following schedule:

- **August 16, 2021:** Online process begins, completed Attestation Forms may be submitted.
- **October 15, 2021:** Last day a person can *become* a Temporary Nurse Aide and *still* be eligible to transition through the TNA Bridge Program. Note the following:
 - After October 15, 2021, an individual may still become a Temporary Nurse Aide. However, they *will not be able to use the Bridge Program* to become a CNA unless they were a TNA on or before October 15, 2021.
 - Nursing facilities will still be able to *use* TNAs after October 15, 2021 until CMS terminates the current federal blanket waivers enacted during the Public Health Emergency.
 - TNAs may still complete the work and skills competency requirements for the TNA Bridge Program after October 15, but must complete prior to December 15, 2021.
- **December 15, 2021:** Deadline to submit Attestation Form through Submission Portal. All eligible TNAs must submit an attestation form by December 15, 2021.
- **January 14, 2022:** Termination of Emergency Rule. After January 14, 2022, TDH can no longer accept any Temporary Bridge Program attestations and no TNA Bridge program attestations will be accepted after this date.

ALL TNAs (OR THEIR EMPLOYING FACILITIES) ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT ATTESTATIONS THROUGH THE ONLINE PROCESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Individuals not meeting the deadlines above will not be eligible for this TNA Bridge Program transition process and will be subject to the normal requirement of completing a 75-hour nurse aide training program referenced in 42 CFR 483.35(d) to become certified.