



Council on Optometric Practitioner Education

200 South College Street
Suite 2030
Charlotte, NC 28202

Tel: (704) 970-2710
Fax: (888) 703-4848
Email: arbo@arbo.org

A Program of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry

COPE Temporary Rules Modification

COPE is aware that many CE providers are not able to hold their planned CE activities due to health concerns and travel restrictions related to COVID-19. We want to let you know that we will be making every effort to work with you during this difficult time. Because of this, we are making some modifications to our rules for the time period of March 7, 2020-May 31, 2020, to allow you to continue to present your CE activities through specific online formats and still qualify the CE for LIVE COPE credit.

If you have a LIVE CE activity scheduled that will be COPE-accredited, COPE is modifying our rules to allow you to give LIVE credit for those courses if they are presented in an INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING format. In order to be considered interactive, your attendees must be able to have immediate interaction with the instructor (i.e. webinar, video conference, teleconference). The activity can only be presented one time, and once it has taken place the learners may no longer participate in that activity. You will also need to have a way to confirm the learners' attendance for the courses before issuing certificates of attendance. In addition, you will not be required to provide a post-course test for this specific activity.

If you plan to present your LIVE CE in an INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING format, please notify COPE as soon as possible so that we can keep track of the change. Please note that it is COPE that is modifying our rules for INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING. Individual State and Provincial Boards may have different policies. We will be notifying all State and Provincial Boards of Optometry of COPE's policy change due to the national state of emergency, and we hope that they will also modify their own policies. However, we advise you to contact the State or Provincial Boards where your attendees are licensed for verification.

If you are planning an ENDURING DISTANCE LEARNING activity where there is not immediate interaction with the instructor and the participants can determine when they participate, you should continue to follow COPE's rules regarding ENDURING DISTANCE LEARNING (a post-course test must be administered which has been reviewed by a school of optometry, medicine, pharmacy or osteopathy.) If you are planning a LIVE activity that will take place after May 31, 2020, you should submit the courses and activity as you normally would for a LIVE activity. COPE will continue to monitor the CDC guidelines and may adjust this date if necessary.

If you are choosing to postpone your CE activity to a later date, please let COPE know. We will be happy to change the date of your activity and will consider adjusting course expiration dates, if necessary. If you have any questions please send them to Sierra Powell, Manager of Accreditation Services, at spowell@arbo.org.