



Iowa Bureau of Radiological Health

COVID-19 Guidance for Radiation Machine Facilities

This guidance does not alter any Bureau of Radiological Health rules. Current proclamations issued by Governor Kim Reynolds do not suspend regulatory provisions relating to radiation machines. The chapters of the Iowa Administrative Code pertaining to radiological health still apply and can be found on our website.

<https://idph.iowa.gov/radiological-health> If the Governor issues another proclamation addressing rules, or if circumstances otherwise change, the Bureau of Radiological Health will issue further guidance.

However, we understand that during the COVID-19 pandemic, you may have questions regarding radiation machines and hopefully the guidance below will be beneficial. If you have further questions, please direct those to Debra Wolff at debra.wolff@idph.iowa.gov or 515-725-1095.

Question: *What if our facility finds the need to bring in an x-ray unit from out of state for temporary use?*

Answer: Whenever any radiation machine is to be brought into the state, for any temporary use, the person proposing to bring such machine into the state shall give written notice to the agency at least three working days before such machine is to be used in the state. The notice shall include:

- The type of radiation machine
- The nature, duration, and scope of use
- The exact location(s) where the radiation machine is to be used
- States in which the machine is registered

The temporary use of the unit will be allowed for 14 days. If the use will be greater than 14 days, the facility will be required to add the unit to their current inventory list and remit registration fees for the unit(s).

Question: *What if our facility wants to temporarily use a portable or mobile device as a stationary unit?*

Answer: These devices do not meet the regulatory requirements of a stationary fixed x-ray device used as a long term permanent installation. Regulations including radiation shielding plan submission would apply prior to use, if the unit would be used for greater than one week in the same location.

Question: *Who can provide services pertaining to radiation machines in Iowa?*

Answer: If at any time you purchase, lease or use a service provider to service your x-ray equipment; please ensure the service provider is registered to provide those services in Iowa. If a service provider needs to become registered to provide such services, the service provider should visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/regulatory-programs/radiation-machine-service-provider> prior to providing services to a facility in Iowa. Our website has a public search option to locate a registered service provider.

<https://dphregprograms.iowa.gov/PublicPortal/Iowa/IDPH/common/index.jsp>

Question: *Should facilities allow service providers from out of state enter their facility?*

Answer: Facilities and service providers are encouraged to follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the Iowa Department of Public Health. <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus> Services that are not urgent should wait until the crisis has passed. Routine calibrations or performance evaluations due during this time will be considered finished “on time” as long as they are completed this calendar year.

Question: *What if our facility identifies a temporary need to change processes to protect patients and staff during the crisis which is in conflict with the regulations:*

Answer: The facility may submit a request for exemption from the regulatory requirements. The agency will consider those needs on a case-by-case basis. Registered x-ray facilities should submit requests to Debra Wolff as indicated above.

Question: *Is IDPH extending the expiration date on the registration certificate for facilities during this time?*

Answer: IDPH is not granting extensions on the registration expiration date. Facilities can renew registrations up to 90 days in advance and until the end of the month of the expiration date. <https://idph.iowa.gov/regulatory-programs/radiation-machines>