



## 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](mailto:arbo@arbo.org)

---

*A Program of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry*

### **COPE Extends Temporary Rules Modification (4.23.2020)**

COPE previously announced a temporary modification to our rules to allow COPE Administrators and Providers to present CE activities through an INTERACTIVE ONLINE format and give LIVE COPE CE credit for the time period of March 7, 2020-May 31, 2020. **Due to continued state restrictions and CDC guidelines related to COVID-19, we are extending the temporary rules modification through June 30, 2020.**

If you have a LIVE CE activity scheduled that is, or 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 at one specified 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. You will not be required to provide a post-course test for this modified 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. The usual post-activity data must be submitted to COPE for your activity to be considered COPE Accredited. Please note that although COPE is modifying our rules to temporarily allow INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING to count as LIVE CE, individual State and Provincial Boards may have different rules. 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.)

**COPE will not extend the temporary rules modification beyond June 30, 2020.** After June 30<sup>th</sup>, all LIVE COPE Accredited courses and activities must meet COPE's definition of LIVE: "... the instructor is in the same room with the participants, even if other formats are used as audiovisual aids for teaching the course. The instructor is face-to-face with the audience and can touch the participants."

If you are planning a CE activity that will take place after June 30, 2020, COPE's recommendation is that you submit the course(s) and activity using one of our ONLINE/DISTANCE LEARNING formats. If restrictions are lifted in the future and you're able to hold a LIVE CE activity, please notify us and we will be able to change your course(s) and activity from DISTANCE LEARNING to LIVE.

We thank all our COPE Administrators and Instructors for all their hard work and dedication during this difficult time. If you have any questions please contact Sierra Powell, Manager of Accreditation Services, at [spowell@arbo.org](mailto:spowell@arbo.org).