NC Radiation Protection Section (NCRP) is aware of the stresses and burdens of COVID-19 on licensees and registrants. If your facility has identified a temporary need to change processes to protect staff and patients during this crisis which may be in conflict with the regulations, the agency will consider those needs on a case-by-case basis. Please submit those requests in writing via your normal communication channels to the agency. Individual exemptions, exceptions or waivers to the rules will be considered as allowed for in 10A NCAC 15.0106 & 10A NCAC 15.0108. Despite the circumstances, licensees and registrants are expected to continue to use sources of radiation in a safe manner and secure them appropriately when not in use.

Radioactive material licensees should submit these requests to licensing.ram@dhhs.nc.gov.

Registered X-ray facilities should submit these requests to the appropriate email found on the RCB Contact Card. You may find some other useful information on our website http://ncradiation.net/.

The agency has had some questions from registrants regarding the short term use of a leased mobile or portable X-ray device. If considering leasing a mobile or portable device; you should consider that these devices do not meet the regulatory requirements of a stationery fixed X-ray device used as a long term permanent installation. If you determine you have a need to lease on a short term basis during the COVID-19 pandemic, please e-mail your waiver request to Radiation Protection at waiver@dhhs.nc.gov. In the subject line, please put your Notice of Registration facility ID number, name of the facility and the words “Urgent Request COVID-19”. We will review the waiver request for the short term use proposed on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, if at any time you purchase, lease or use a service provider to service your X-ray equipment; please ensure the service provider you choose is registered in North Carolina to provide those services. If a service provider needs to become registered to provide such services, the service provider should complete a registration form and submit it to the agency prior to providing services to a facility in North Carolina. The service provider list is located on the X-ray web page at http://www.ncradiation.net/Xray/xray.htm.

Many organizations are releasing official guidance for imaging studies and infection control considerations regarding COVID-19. Due to the rapidly changing environment, NCRP recommends registrants refer regularly to trusted sources for guidance.

The following resources may be helpful when making decisions regarding imaging appropriateness criteria and infection control within an imaging department. NCRP does not promote or endorse the organizations listed below, but is providing a link to their websites since information on the below-listed sites may provide helpful guidance and information to make informed decisions.

- Centers for Disease Control Guidance — Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings