



SONIA Y. ANGELL, MD, MPH  
State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor

March 19, 2020

Dear CLS and MLT Training Program Directors,  
Administrators, and Primary Contacts,

CDPH Laboratory Field Services (LFS) appreciates the proactive measures that programs are taking to ensure the safety of their students and staff during the COVID-19 emergency. We would like to know your plans and will be here to help as much as possible as the situation evolves.

LFS recognizes that many locations for required clinical laboratory experience may be unavailable for Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS) and Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) preparation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although LFS accepts distance-learning and simulation instruction for didactic coursework leading to CLS or MLT licensure, LFS does not have authority to approve simulated laboratory experience to meet the practical rotation requirements of California law (Business and Professions Code 1260-1261). There are currently no alternate means of meeting required practical experience for CLSs and MLTs.

As training facilities close to students, some may find they are unable to obtain necessary training documents from their supervisors. As a temporary policy during the COVID-19 emergency, LFS will not consider a CLS or MLT license application abandoned if it remains incomplete beyond the 60-day-pending application time limit.

As the COVID-19 emergency evolves, please keep us informed about its effect on your trainees. Please write to CDPH LFS with any questions. We will answer as quickly as possible.

- CDPH LFS Scientist <LFSscientist@cdph.ca.gov>

We appreciate your partnership in protecting the health of California citizens.

Sincerely,

Dolapo Afolayan, MPH  
Section Chief, Personnel Licensing

Cc: Robert J. Thomas, M.S., MT (ASCP), HCLD (ABB)  
Branch Chief

