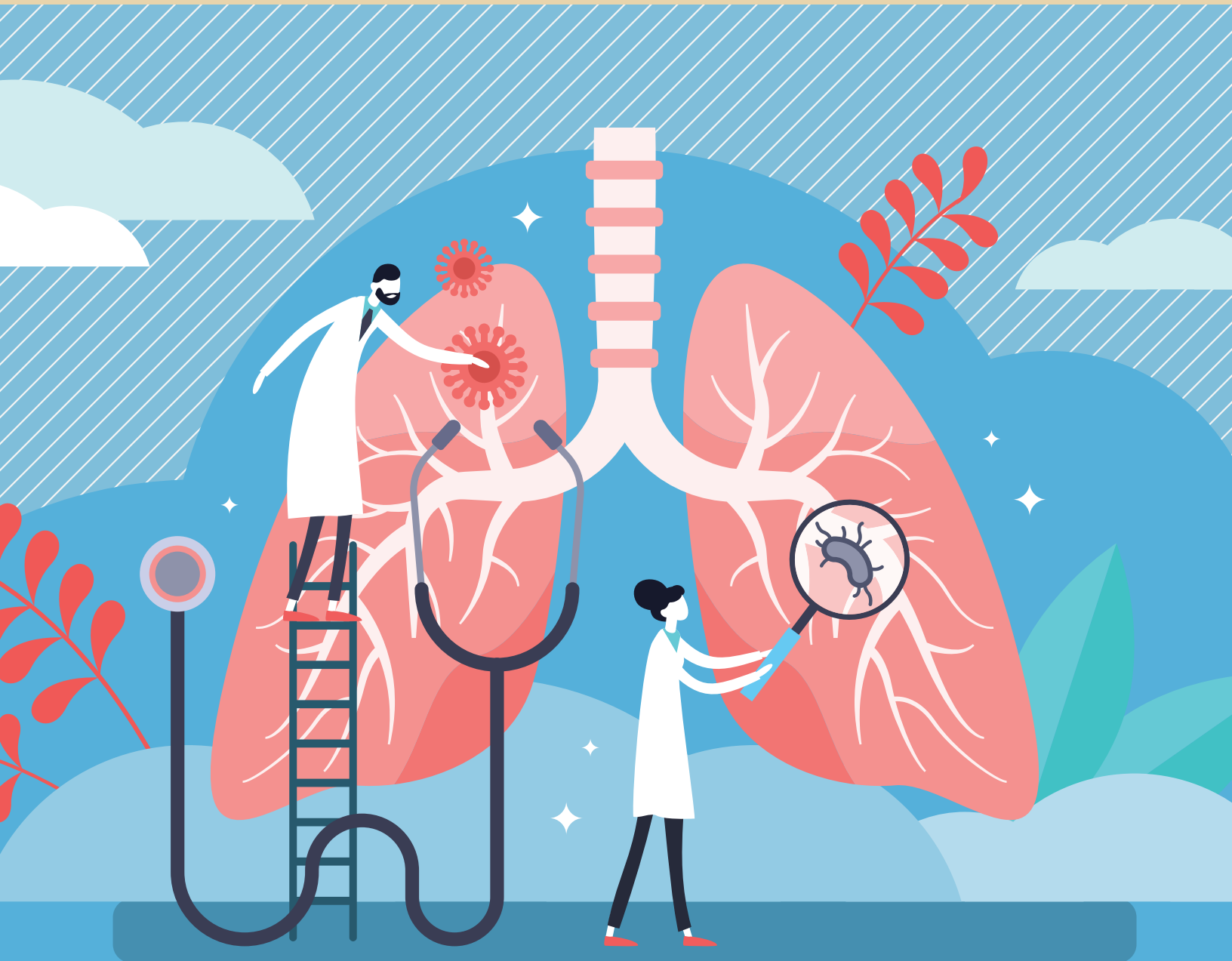


# Breathing Matters

RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

2020



**RESPIRATORY  
CARE BOARD**  
OF CALIFORNIA

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## President's Message

2020 brought unprecedented challenges to every citizen of our state, nation, and the world. This is especially true of those practicing respiratory care. For over 75 years, respiratory care practitioners (RCPs) have delivered respiratory care, with ever-increasing responsibilities, largely in obscurity. It took a novel virus to bring our essential contributions to the forefront. The Respiratory Care Board of California commends all licensees for your sacrifice, dedication, and commitment to provide competent and safe respiratory care to the patients we serve. The work you have done and continue to do during this pandemic is nothing short of heroic. We stand ready to partner with you as we strive to deliver our mandate to serve and protect consumers in the practice of respiratory care for many years to come.

Gratefully,

**Ricardo Guzman, RRT, RCP**  
Respiratory Care Board President



## RT Heroes

Respiratory therapists (RTs) have garnered much-deserved, worldwide attention for their critical role in the COVID-19 pandemic. Numerous media outlets, including CNN and Fox News, as well as the president of the United States recognized RTs for saving the lives of the most critically ill patients. Board members and staff have always known the vital role RTs hold: Their vast experience and education specifically in respiratory care is unmatched and the reason why patients—from trauma victims to patients with chronic conditions—are treated by RTs. This year, RT caseloads have exploded with thousands more patients on the cusp of life and death, many dependent upon RTs and their expertise in mechanical ventilation. The personal and professional sacrifices made by so many RTs during this pandemic have not gone unnoticed. We see you and we thank you! #RTHeroes

## Respiratory Care Board Members

- Ricardo Guzman, M.A., RRT, RCP—President**
- Mark Goldstein, MPA, RCP, RRT—Vice President**
- Mary Ellen Early**
- Rebecca Franzoia**
- Michael Hardeman**
- Raymond Hernandez, MPH, RRT, NPS**
- Sam Kbushyan**
- Ronald Lewis, M.D.**
- Michael Terry, RCP, RRT, RPFT, CCRC**

The Board would like to extend a warm welcome to Raymond Hernandez and Michael Terry who were appointed by the speaker of the Assembly and would also like to congratulate Vice President Mark Goldstein and Mary Ellen Early on being reappointed by Governor Newsom!

## Online Is Easier!

For faster service, manage your registration and license online! The BreEZe system provides services for applicants, registrants, and licensees that can save weeks of processing time compared to paper applications. Services available include the ability to:

- Renew a license instantly (up to 90 days in advance).
- Submit an address change (takes effect instantly).
- Upload CE or applicant documents.
- Request a replacement license (allow two weeks for delivery).
- Verify a license and obtain proof of renewal status.
- Request a verification of licensure.
- Submit an application to change from Inactive to Active status.
- Pay with a major credit card in a secure environment.
- Subscribe to receive RCP license notifications, including status-change updates.

## Helpful Tips

If you are new to the Board's online services, there are tutorial videos available to help you (select "Help Tutorials" on [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov)) Tutorial videos include:

- An overview of BreEZe services.
- How to search for a license.
- How to register for BreEZe.
- What to do if you forgot your password or user ID.
- How to submit a renewal.
- How to update license information.
- How to make a payment.

If you need additional assistance using BreEZe, call our office at (916) 999-2190.

## New: Electronic Transaction Attachment

The Board recently launched a new BreEZe transaction that allows licensees to attach continuing education (CE) certificates to their online BreEZe license record throughout their renewal cycle or in response to a CE audit. The attachment application feature can also be used by pending applicants to submit supplemental information, and for licensees with open enforcement cases to upload relevant documents, saving time and resources.

## Sunset Review Extended

Every four years, boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) are scheduled to undergo sunset review. The sunset review process provides an opportunity for the DCA, the Legislature, the boards, and interested parties and stakeholders to discuss the performance of the boards and make recommendations for improvements.



As a result of COVID-19, the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Business and Professions Committee postponed sunset review oversight for a number of programs that would have otherwise been scheduled for review in 2020-2021.

Senate Bill 1474 extended operations for several boards including the Respiratory Care Board for one year, until January 1, 2023. Therefore, the Board's Sunset Review Report that was due this December will now be due next December in 2021, with hearings to be held in spring 2022. Stay tuned for additional information regarding availability of the Sunset Report.

# Education Requirements and Approved Accreditation Entity

It has been brought to the attention of the Respiratory Care Board (RCB) that an organization entitled National Network of Health Career Programs in Two Year Colleges (NN2) petitioned and received Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) approval to sponsor a body that would accredit new respiratory care associate degree programs. It appears the sponsored entity that has been established is the National Association for Associate Degree Respiratory Care. This poses concern for the RCB as its existing law is very specific as to accreditation requirements for respiratory education programs. Specifically, Business and Professions Code section 3740 (a) states:

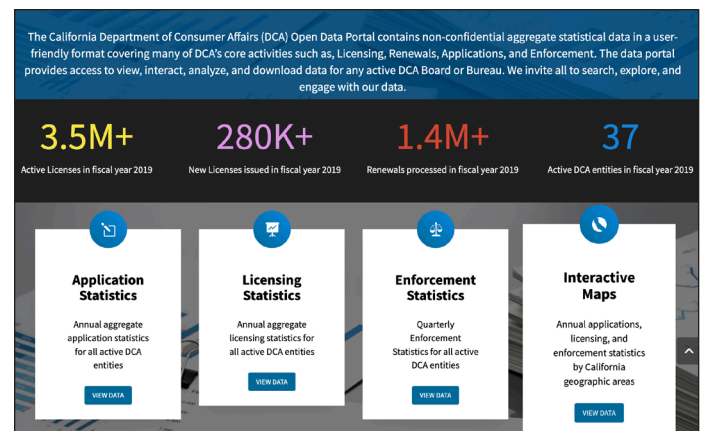
“Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, all applicants for licensure under this chapter shall have completed an education program for respiratory care that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care [CoARC] or its successor and been awarded a minimum of an associate degree from an institution or university accredited by a regional accreditation agency or association recognized by the United States Department of Education.”

As such, graduation from a respiratory program approved by any entity other than CoARC will not satisfy the minimum education requirement for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner in California.

Though the RCB is not aware of any current California respiratory programs operating under the accreditation of the National Association for Associate Degree Respiratory Care, in an effort to prevent confusion or hardship for current or potential respiratory care students, the Board has posted a notice on its website reminding all stakeholders of the existing education requirements, including graduation from a CoARC-approved program. Further, the Board has notified the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education of this matter in the event future issues related to this unauthorized accreditation come to light.

# Department of Consumer Affairs' Open Data Portal

The California Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) Open Data Portal contains nonconfidential aggregate statistical data in a user-friendly format covering many of DCA's core activities, such as licensing, renewals, applications, and enforcement. The data portal provides access to view, interact, analyze, and download data for any active DCA board or bureau.



In the Enforcement Statistics section, users can access information on the number of complaints received and referred for investigation. Also available is data on case aging, including cases that end with or without disciplinary action.

In the Application Statistics section, users can access information on the average application processing time of initial license applications, as well as processing times for incomplete applications.

All are invited to search, explore, and engage with the data.

## Licensee Lists

DCA's website also provides access to lists of licensees and licensee counts. This information can be obtained in two different formats:

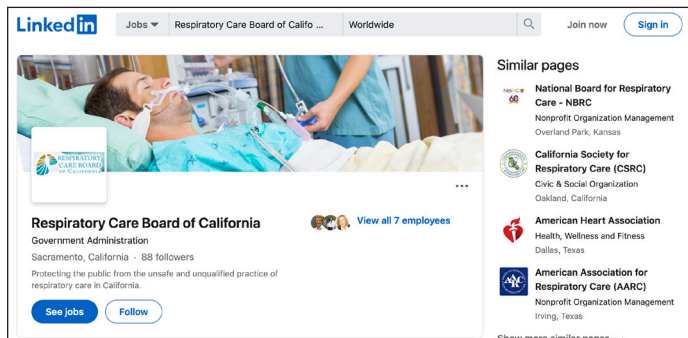
- Licensee lists and total numbers (downloads for use in Excel): [www.dca.ca.gov/consumers/public\\_info/index.shtml](http://www.dca.ca.gov/consumers/public_info/index.shtml).
- Licensee records sorted by license type, status, county, etc.: <https://search.dca.ca.gov/advanced>.

## Continuing Education Opportunity

The Department of Consumer Affairs would like licensees to know of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Learning Connection. CDC's Learning Connection can help health care professionals stay informed about quality trainings from the CDC, other federal agencies, and federally funded partners. These courses are related to improved patient care, and often address current topics and trends in health care. For more information, please visit the CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/learning](http://www.cdc.gov/learning).

## RCB LinkedIn Page

We now have a presence on [LinkedIn](#)! Please look for Respiratory Care Board of California and connect with us.



### Interesting FACTS

- The most common age of California's active licensed RCP is 36.
- The youngest licensed RCP was born in 2001.
- The oldest RCP with an Active license was born in 1932.
- Of the 9,862 licenses that were issued in 1985, the first year of licensure (certification back then), only 1,721 remain in some type of active status.

## Disciplinary Summaries Available Online

The Board recently reestablished the online publishing of quarterly disciplinary action summaries with links to public documents. To access this summary information, please visit our website at [www.rcb.ca.gov](http://www.rcb.ca.gov), select the "Enforcement" tab and the link entitled "Disciplinary Actions." You can then select the information by calendar year (2016 to present).

## 2021 Board Meeting Dates

### March 3, 2021

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020, this meeting will be held via a teleconference platform (or Southern California if the Executive Order is repealed).

### June 30, 2021 (WebEx Teleconference)

### October 20, 2021

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020, this meeting will be held via a teleconference platform (or Northern California if the Executive Order is repealed).



## I've Been Selected for a CE Audit: What Should I Do?

Receiving a letter notifying you that the Respiratory Care Board is auditing your continuing education (CE) is probably not what you would consider a cause for celebration. No one likes to be audited, but following these tips can help you weather the process.

Respiratory care practitioners licensed by the Board must complete 30 continuing education units (CEUs) each renewal period and may have their records audited at any time to verify compliance (B&P 3719 and CCR 1399.353).

The Board conducts random audits to ensure that licensees are completing the required CEUs. If you are selected for an audit, the Board will send a letter to your address of record. Your response must be received by the date specified on the letter (generally 30 days from the date of the audit) and should contain a record of course completion, such as copies of certificates and/or transcripts.

Failing to produce a record of completion when requested by the Board can result in the issuance of a citation and fine and/or disciplinary action. Falsifying CEU completion will likely result in more serious discipline.

### Quick facts about the audit process

Licensees are required to maintain a copy of their certificates of completion for a period of four years. If an audit of your CEUs reveals a deficiency, you may have an opportunity to correct it, though this may involve taking more CE courses.

### Suggestions for a smooth audit

Organize your CE documents (certificates, transcripts, etc.) by renewal cycle. Licensees cannot carry over excess units of CE from one renewal cycle to the next.

When requested to submit copies of CE certificates, you are encouraged to do so using the BreZE attachment application. If you choose to provide your documents via mail, it is recommended you use a "priority" mailing service, especially one with a tracking feature. Tracking the mailing will decrease the likelihood of documents getting lost in the mail.

Always remember to only submit copies of CE certificates. Your originals should be maintained for your records.



## During These Unprecedented Times, We Remain Steadfast In Our Commitment To Serve You

Although working remotely has become the new normal for most, the Board continues to have staff members in the office answering phones and assisting visitors at the public counter from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Staff also continuously monitors and responds to all email communications, and updates the website to reflect the most current information related to the Board's activities and information regarding waivers and frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to COVID-19.

If you need assistance, please call our office at (916) 999-2190, send an email to [rcbinfo@dca.gov](mailto:rcbinfo@dca.gov), or visit the Board's website at [www.rcb.ca.gov](http://www.rcb.ca.gov).

# Respiratory Care Job Forecast

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in health care occupations is projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations, adding about 2.4 million new jobs between 2019 and 2029. As it relates to respiratory care, the Bureau for Labor Statistics reported:

“Employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 19% from 2019 to 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth in the middle-aged and older population will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory conditions such as pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other disorders that can permanently damage the lungs or restrict lung function. The aging population will in turn lead to an increased demand for respiratory therapy services and treatments, mostly in hospitals.

In addition, a growing emphasis on reducing readmissions in hospitals may result in more demand for respiratory therapists in nursing homes and in doctors’ offices.

Advances in preventing and detecting disease, improved medications, and more sophisticated treatments will also

increase the demand for respiratory therapists. Other conditions affecting the general population, such as respiratory problems due to smoking and air pollution, along with respiratory emergencies, will continue to create demand for respiratory therapists.”



## MISSION

To protect and serve consumers by licensing qualified respiratory care practitioners, enforcing the provisions of the Respiratory Care Practice Act, expanding the availability of respiratory care services, increasing public awareness of the profession; and supporting the development and education of respiratory care practitioners.



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