




# Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson  
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

## ARKANSAS INFORMATION NOTICE 20-01

To: X-Ray and Mammography Registrants  
From: Bernard Bevill, Radiation Control Section Chief   
Date: April 10, 2020  
Subject: Extension of Physicist Surveys and Equipment Evaluations Due to COVID-19

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In response to the increasing limitations of vendor access to facilities and travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the State is granting an extension for the physicist surveys required for computed tomography (CT), fluoroscopy and mammography units as detailed below.

### Mammography

The Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted an extension for the annual physicist surveys that are/were due from *January 2020 to June 2020*. Facilities will have a *16-month window* from the date of the last annual survey. This allows facilities an *additional four (4) months* from the survey due date. For example, if the annual survey was due on March 15, 2020, the facility would have until July 15, 2020 to get the survey completed. In the event that this outbreak prolongs, the Department will notify mammography registrants if the FDA grants an additional extension.

### Computed Tomography (CT)

The calibration of a CT unit shall be performed at intervals specified by a qualified expert that is in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. The frequency, which is usually at least annually, must be stipulated in the facility's quality assurance procedures. For calibrations that are/were due from *January 2020 to June 2020*, the Department is granting facilities an *additional four (4) months* from the due date to get the calibration performed by a qualified expert.

### Fluoroscopy

Periodic measurements of the entrance exposure rate shall be performed annually by a qualified expert. For the measurements that are/were due from *January 2020 to June 2020*, the Department is granting facilities a *16-month window* from the date of the last annual measurement. This allows facilities an *additional four (4) months* from the survey due date.

All other registrants, including non-medical, should also have written procedures that specify the intervals at which periodic surveys must be performed. Again, for surveys that are/were due from *January 2020 to June 2020*, the Department is allowing these facilities an *additional four (4) months* from the date of the last survey.

If facilities need a longer extension or physics testing cannot be obtained on new units, please contact Radiation Control for further guidance. In the event that this outbreak prolongs, the Department will then determine, along with the guidance from the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), if an additional extension is needed.

If you have any questions regarding this information notice, please do not hesitate to contact Kayla Avery, X-Ray/Mammography Program Manager at (501) 661-2801 or via e-mail to [Kayla.Avery@arkansas.gov](mailto:Kayla.Avery@arkansas.gov).