



# Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 8, 2026

DAL #: DRS #26-04  
Subject: Elimination of Certified Nurse Aide  
Paper Certificates

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

Traditionally, Certified Nurse Aides receive via mail a paper certificate confirming their initial certification or recertification status. Please be advised that, effective **August 1, 2026**, paper certificates will no longer be issued to Certified Nurse Aides. This shift to a paperless system addresses issues with undeliverable mail and lost documents, reduces costs for Certified Nurse Aides, reduces the carbon footprint, and ensures employers have access to the most current data in real-time.

The [New York State Nurse Aide Registry](#) digital registry provides real-time data regarding Certified Nurse Aide registration status, ensuring immediate verification of a Certified Nurse Aide's eligibility. Nursing Homes are currently able to verify a Certified Nurse Aide's certification status directly through the [New York State Nurse Aide Registry](#). Effective on or after **August 1, 2026**, facilities are required to verify certification status directly through the [New York State Nurse Aide Registry](#).

Questions regarding this guidance may be emailed to [natp.doh@health.ny.gov](mailto:natp.doh@health.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Kristen M. Pergolino, Director  
Division of Residential Support  
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