



# CPH RECERTIFICATION GUIDE

*Your Recertification, Your Way!*

FEBRUARY 2026

**CPH** Certified in  
Public Health



National Board of Public Health Examiners | PO Box 2406 | Arlington, VA 22202  
Phone: (202) 296-3050 | Email: [info@NBPHE.org](mailto:info@NBPHE.org) Website: [www.nbphe.org](http://www.nbphe.org)

## **Effective Date and Policy Updates**

This CPH Recertification Guide is effective February 2026 and supersedes all prior versions. NBPHE reserves the right to update policies and procedures as necessary. Certificants will be notified of material changes impacting recertification requirements.

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## Introduction

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**Congratulations!** You have demonstrated your skills and knowledge as a public health professional by earning the Certified in Public Health (CPH) credential managed by the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE). The next step in this process is for you to enhance your continued competence in public health sciences through lifelong professional development and adhere to the CPH recertification requirements.

The CPH is issued for a two-year cycle, and certificants must recertify by the expiration date to maintain an active CPH status.

## Purpose of Recertification and Continued Competence

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Certified in Public Health (CPH) recertification is designed to support the ongoing professional competence of certificants. Through participation in continuing education, professional development, service, and scholarly activities aligned with the CPH Content Outline, certificants demonstrate maintenance and enhancement of the knowledge, skills, and professional judgment required for contemporary public health practice. Recertification ensures that CPH certificants remain current with emerging public health issues, evolving evidence, and best practices throughout their certification lifecycle.

## Authority for Recertification Decisions

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Recertification applications are reviewed by NBPHE's certification staff under authority delegated by NBPHE. The National Board retains ultimate authority for certification and recertification decisions, including appeals.

## Conflict of Interest

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NBPHE requires all individuals involved in recertification review, audit, appeal, and decision-making processes to act impartially and disclose any real or perceived conflicts of interest. Individuals with a conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from participation in any decision affecting the certificant involved. NBPHE maintains procedures to ensure that recertification decisions are made objectively and without undue influence.

## Certification Status

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CPH certificants are categorized as:

- **Provisional:** Student who has successfully passed the CPH exam but has not yet graduated from their accredited public health program. May use the designation CPH-provisional.
- **Active:** Certificant who meets certification and recertification requirements. May use the designation CPH.
- **CPH Retired:** Certificant who has retired from the field of public health and applied for retired status. May use the designation CPH-Retired.
- **Lapsed:** Certificant who has not satisfied the recertification requirements, and the certification has expired. May not use the CPH designation.

## Recertification Requirements

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Recertification requires active CPH certificants to:

- Report 30 recertification credits earned during the 2-year period. The recertification credits must relate to the [CPH Content Outline](#).
- Attest to complying with the [NBPHE's Code of Ethics](#) included in the online application.
- Submit the CPH Recertification Application and fee of \$95.

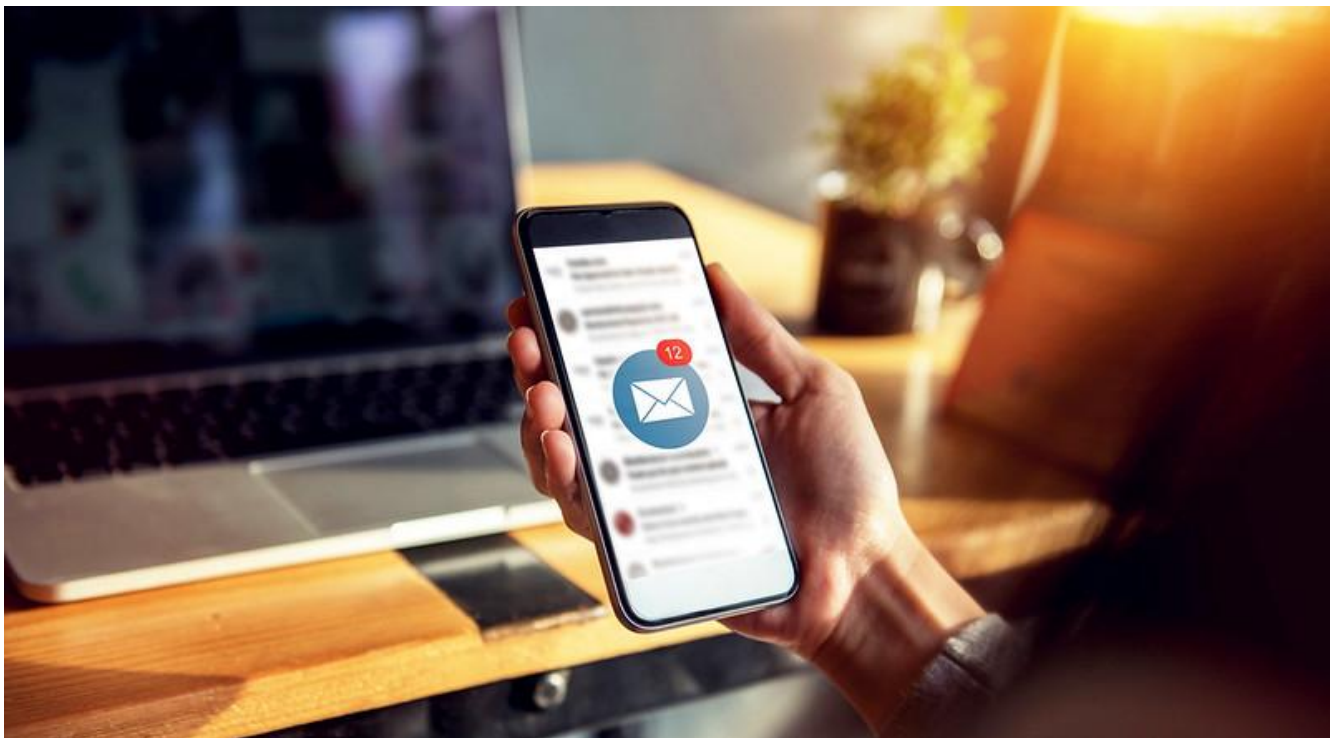
## Recertification Notifications

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CPH certificants must comply with all procedures and deadlines in order to maintain their CPH credential.

NBPHE will email certificants a recertification reminder during the following times:

- 6 months prior to their recertification expiration date
- 4 months prior to their recertification expiration date
- 2 months prior to their recertification expiration date
- 1 month prior to their recertification expiration date
- 2 weeks prior to their recertification expiration date
- 1 day prior to their recertification expiration date



# Tips and Tricks to a Seamless CPH Recertification



## START EARLY

You need just 30 CPH credits to maintain your certification, so start early and gradually earn throughout the two years. This will keep you up-to-date on different public health issues as well as providing you with a stress-free recertification process.



## IDENTIFY AND CREATE YOUR OWN CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that participating in the CPH Book Club, attending professional public health events, and certain volunteer activities earn you credits? There are many alternative opportunities for earning credits. Don't limit yourself to online courses, visit [NBPHE.org](http://NBPHE.org) to learn which activities will count.



## WE ACCEPT CREDITS FROM ANY SOURCE

As long as activities meet the guidelines found in our Recertification Credit Guide, they will count. Databases like the CPH Activity Finder, TRAIN, and the Public Health Learning Navigator are great places to start, offering thousands of courses that count as credits. Each hour completed equals one credit!



## JOIN THE CPH LINKEDIN GROUP

Not sure where to find a fellow CPH? Request to join the [CPH LinkedIn Group](#) to connect with thousands of other CPHs to share opportunities to earn recertification credits, job opportunities, and more.



## TEAM UP WITH ANOTHER CPH PROFESSIONAL

Connect with other CPHs to share crediting opportunities you find valuable.



## SHARE YOUR IDEAS

If you know about a conference or other recertification event that other CPH may be interested in, send the information to [info@nbphe.org](mailto:info@nbphe.org) so we can promote it.



## ASK OUR STAFF

Not sure if an activity will count for recertification? We're happy to provide guidance—simply email a brief description to [info@nbphe.org](mailto:info@nbphe.org).



## TAKE MORE TIME IF YOU NEED IT

You can extend your recertification cycle by 3 or 6 months. So, no worries if you simply ran out of time, log into [CertCentral](#) to submit a request and once approved, you will automatically be granted an extension.

# CPH Recertification Activities – Credit Guide

All recertification credits must relate directly to public health.

Continuing Education/ Professional Development Activity	CPH Credits
Academic CEPH-Accredited or Other Accredited School or Program – Semester-Long Course	15 CPH credits per course
Academic CEPH-Accredited or Other Accredited School or Program – Trimester/Quarter-Long Course	10 CPH credits per course
Academic Course – Teach	10 CPH credits per course
AJPH Article Review	1 CPH credit per article ( <i>Up to 6 credits per cycle</i> )
Conferences/Meetings – Participation/Attendance	1 CPH credit per 1 hour
Courses Taken – Online Training Courses	1 CPH credit per 1 hour
Courses Taken – In-Person Training Courses	1 CPH credit per 1 hour
CPH Book Club Participation	5 CPH credits per year
Dissertation	15 CPH credits per year
Earning Other Public Health-related certifications	10 CPH credits
Grant Review (Technical)	10 CPH credits ( <i>Up to 20 credits per cycle</i> )
Grant Submission (Approved)	10 CPH credits ( <i>Up to 20 credits per cycle</i> )
Guest Lecturer	1 CPH credit per 1 hour
Item Writer for CPH Exam or Study Guide	10 CPH credits per year
Leadership Institute Participation	1 CPH credit per 1 hour
Manuscript Review (Technical)	6 CPH credits per manuscript
Medical/Clinical Residency	15 CPH credits per year
Mentoring Program	6 CPH credits per year
Podcasts	1 CPH credit per 1 hour
Presentation Attendance (Online/In-Person)	1 CPH credit per 1 hour
Presenting (Online/In-Person)	1 CPH credit per hour of a presentation ( <i>Up to 5 credits per presentation including prep time</i> )
Public Health Fellowship	15 CPH credits per year
Publication (Peer-reviewed)	10 CPH credits per article
Seminar Participation	1 CPH credit per 1 hour
Site Visits/Training for Public Health Accreditation Organizations	1 CPH credit per 1 hour
Teach Multi-Day Course	10 CPH credits per course
Volunteer/Leadership Service	1 CPH credit per 1 hour ( <i>Up to 20 hours per cycle</i> )
Webinar Participation	1 CPH credit per 1 hour
Workshop – Create and Lead	6 CPH credits per course
Workshop Participation	1 CPH credit per 1 hour

## Additional Activity and Credit Information

### Things to Note:

- Activities must relate to the [CPH Content Outline](#) and can be from any organization/provider.
- Your job or work responsibilities generally will not count towards recertification. Recertification activities are above and beyond your routine job.

### Attending Public Health Professional Events

- Conferences, workshops, webinars, presentations, podcasts, leadership institutes, and seminars, including face-to-face, audio/videoconference, and online delivery. Credit shall only be earned for individual sessions focused on CPH areas of competency. Time on general sessions, refreshment breaks, and social events shall not count. **Note:** The credits you earn can be from any organization/provider. NBPHE does not have a list of authorized providers for recertification activities, but we do provide CPHs with the [Activity Finder](#) as a resource for credits.
  - For activities offered by pre-approved providers, credits earned will be determined by provider.
  - For activities offered by providers which are NOT pre-approved, 1 CPH credit for 60 minutes.

### Attending Public Health College or University Courses

- College or university courses and programs (e.g., face-to-face, or online) taken for academic credit which result in a passing grade. Summer institutes are also allowed under this category. Courses and programs under this category must be related to the content of the CPH exam.
  - 15 CPH recertification credits per semester-long class or summer program
  - 10 CPH recertification credits per trimester or quarter-long class.

### Instruction, Presenting, Writing or Professional Contribution

- 10 credits for each formal grant application written and approved (limit of two per recertification cycle).
- 10 credits for each peer-reviewed article, chapter or book written and published (limited to authors who made substantial contributions to published document).
- 10 credits will be earned for participation in each formal/technical grant review session (limit of 20 credits per recertification period).
- 10 credits for each new multi-day course. Course must be newly developed and delivered by CPH to be eligible for credit (limit of one per recertification period).
- 8 credits for each full day of participation as a site visitor in a public health accreditation organization site visit or training as a site visitor.
- 6 credits for participation in a formal public health mentoring program.
- 6 credits for each new one-day workshop or seminar that is instructed. Workshop/seminar must be newly developed and delivered by CPH to be eligible for credit (limit 1 per recertification period).
- 5 credits per year for participating in the CPH book club or reading a recommended book from the book club.
- 1 credit per hour for participation in a public health leadership program.
- 1 credit per hour for presenting in-person/online or being a guest lecturer (limit of 5 credits per presentation including prep time). Presentation must be newly written/developed by speaker to be eligible for credit.

## Residencies and Dissertations

- Medical residency
  - 15 credits per year are earned during a medical residency.
- Dissertation
  - 15 credits per year while working on a dissertation.

## Public Health Fellowship

- Participation in formal public health fellowship training programs will earn 15 recertification credits per year.

## Certification Activities

- Earning a certification in public health or a related field (other than the CPH) may earn 10 recertification credits.
  - Earning public health related certifications may count up to 10 credits towards CPH recertification. You may only count your awarded certification once during the lifecycle of your CPH. However, continuing education/recertification activities that may be reported to maintain other public health related recertification may also count towards CPH recertification, assuming they relate to the domain areas of the CPH exam.
- Item-writer for NBPHE's certification exams or study guides (10 credits per year).

## Service Activities

- Non-compensated public health activities (e.g., service as a board member for a public health organization, volunteering at a public health service event, etc.) General membership in an organization shall not count.
  - 1 credit per hour for service activities. An additional 2 recertification credits may be earned for each leadership position (e.g., board or committee chair) held during the recertification period. This category is limited to a maximum of twenty hours per recertification period.

## AJPH Article Review

- Credit may be earned by reading articles from the American Journal of Public Health (AJPH).
  - 1 credit per article. Visit the [AJPH Article Review webpage](#).

**Note:** NBPHE randomly audits approximately 5% of certificant recertification applications for review. CPHs are advised to retain supporting documentation of recertification credits earned. CPHs selected for an audit will receive an email from NBPHE's certification staff and will be required to submit verifiable documentation (i.e., college transcript (unofficial student copy), certificate of completion, copy of article, program brochure, flyer, syllabus, or roster) for each activity listed in the recertification application.

## Extension Request

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CPH certificants can extend their CPH recertification cycle expiration date by 3-months or 6-months (max) at no cost. To qualify for an extension, the CPH status must be active and not expired.

Instructions on how to request an extension:

1. Log in NBPHE's [CertCentral Portal](#). **Note:** You already have a CPH account, please do not create a new one. Email us at [info@nbphe.org](mailto:info@nbphe.org) if you are having issues login in.
2. Next, click on "Applications," then select "My Applications," click on "Apply Now," and select "Apply" next to the Recertification Extension Request Application option.

## Ways to Earn Credits

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CPH certificants are able to earn credits in many ways! Do not limit yourself to the helpful resources listed below. Qualifying activities for recertification credits include continuing education and professional development opportunities. Take the opportunity to explore activities that interest you. Remember, this is Your recertification, Your Way! Join our private CPH Professionals Group on LinkedIn to discuss with peers, join our Book Club to discuss public health books, or attend our Webinar Wednesday series. Design a certification and learning process that enriches your path towards recertification.



[CPH Activity Finder](#)



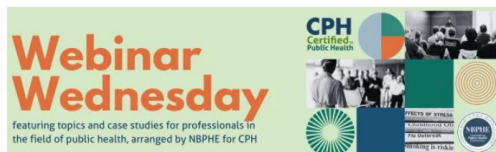
[Train Learning Network](#)



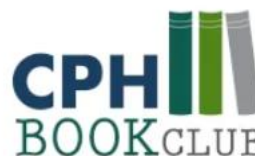
[Public Health Learning Navigator](#)



[Public Health Training Center Network](#)



[NBPHE Wednesday Webinar Series](#)



[CPH Book Club](#)

## No Penalty for Recertifying Early

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CPH certificants are able to recertify early. Doing so will not change their 2-year recertification period. For example, a CPH has a 2-year certification cycle of February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2026. They realized that they have reported the 30 credits required to recertify on November 1, 2025, and decide to submit the recertification application and pay the fee on that date. Once their application is reviewed and approved by NBPHE’s certification staff, the certificants’ new certification period will be February 1, 2026 – January 31, 2028, just as it would have been if they had not recertified early. In other words, you will not be penalized for submitting your CPH recertification application before your expiration date.

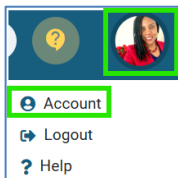
## Updating Contact Information

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CPH certificants are responsible for updating their contact information to include mailing address, email, and phone number within NBPHE’s [CertCentral](#) portal. NBPHE highly recommends CPH certificants provide a personal email address and cell phone number. NBPHE will use the contact information listed on CertCentral to send important CPH information and reminders.

Instructions on how to update your contact information:

1. Log in NBPHE’s [CertCentral Portal](#). **Note:** You already have a CPH account, please do not create a new one. Email us at [info@nbphe.org](mailto:info@nbphe.org) if you are having issues login in.
2. Click on the “Circle Profile Icon” located on the top right-hand corner of your Dashboard and select “Account” to update your mailing address and/or email.

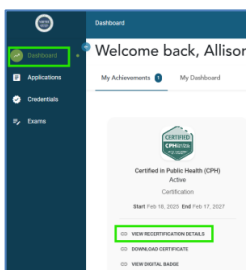


## Reporting Recertification Credits

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CPH certificants must report recertification credits earned during their 2-year period via NBPHE’s [CertCentral](#). Instructions on how to report recertification credits:

1. Log in NBPHE’s [CertCentral Portal](#). **Note:** You already have a CPH account and are having trouble logging in, do not create a new one. Email us at [info@nbphe.org](mailto:info@nbphe.org) if you are having issues login in.
2. Next, click on “Dashboard” to the left and select “View Recertification Details.”

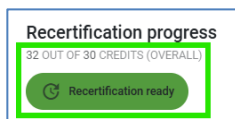


- You are now in your Certification Dashboard! The “Recertification Progress Bar” indicates the total number of credits required to recertify. As a reminder, you need to report 30 credits for every 2-year recertification cycle.

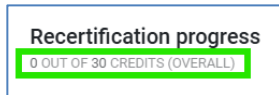


**Things to Note:**

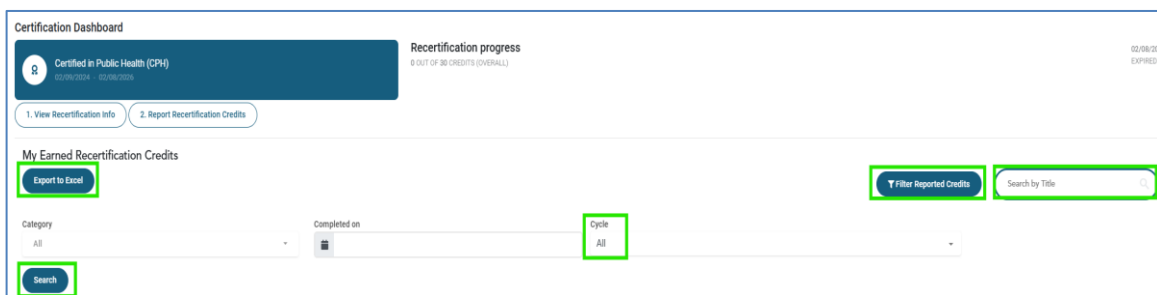
- If the progress bar indicates that you have reported the 30 credits required (you will see the “Recertification Ready” notice in green) **proceed to page 13 Submitting the Recertification Application.**



- If the progress bar indicates that you have to report more than 30 credits (example below indicates 32 credits needed), you must follow the [Reinstatement Instructions](#) instead.



- To view historical credits submitted, click on “Filter Reported Credits,” select “All” under Cycle, and click the blue “Search” icon. You are also able to view credits by 2-year cycles, “Search by Title” for a reported credit, and “Export to Excel”.

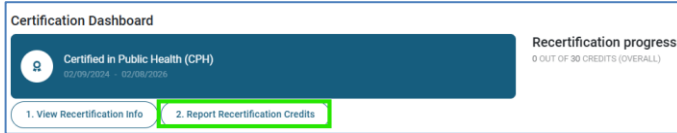


- Note:** The “Used for Renewal” category will be listed as “No” until your recertification application is approved by NBPHE staff. Also, please ignore the “No topics currently applied” at the bottom of each credit entry.

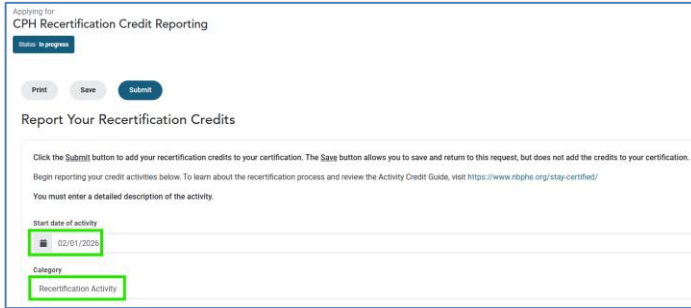
Category	Activity	Title	Provider	Description	Completed on	Earned	Used for Renewal
Recertification Activity	CEPH Accredited or Other Accredited School or Program: Semester-Long Course	EPID 6410 - Advanced Multistate Epidemiologic Data Analysis	East Tennessee State University course	Highlighting the overarching concepts and principles of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods, this research methods course is designed for the public health professional. The use of...	December 11, 2025	15	No

No topics currently applied

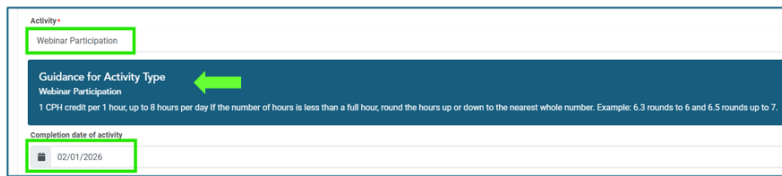
- Click on 2: “Report Recertification Credits” to report activities.



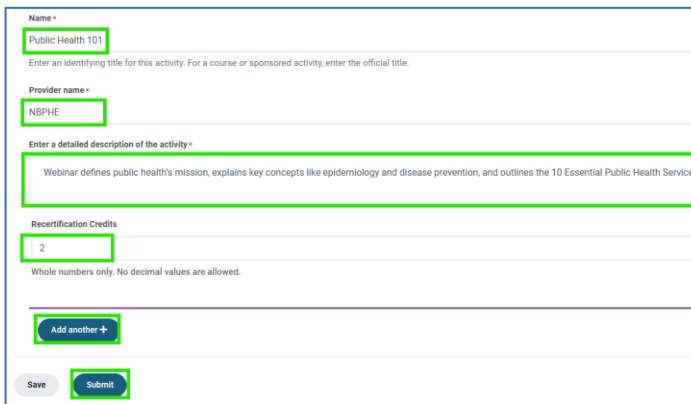
- Enter the Start Date for the first activity and select “Recertification Activity” under category.



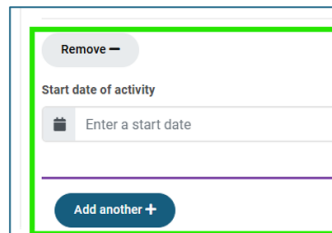
- Select the “Activity” from the dropdown. The system will provide guidance on the number of hours that can be reported per activity type. Enter the “Completion Date.”



- Enter the “Name,” the “Provider Name,” provide detailed description of the activity, and input the number of credits. Click on “Add Another” to add additional activities to report in one application. Once done, select “Submit.”



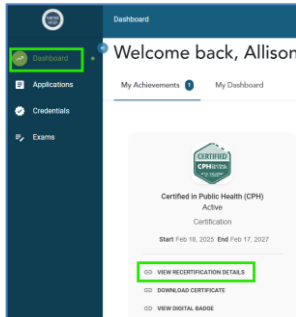
**NOTE:** Check that you did not click on Add Another by mistake which will create an empty record. You will not be able to submit the credit until the empty record is Removed.



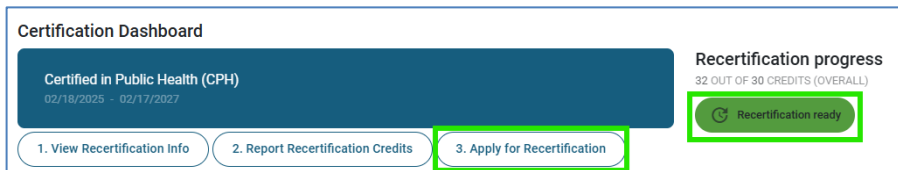
## Submitting the Recertification Application

The online CPH Recertification Application must be received on or before the certification expiration date. All recertification credits must be earned within the 2-year period and reported prior to the certificate expiration date to apply towards recertification.

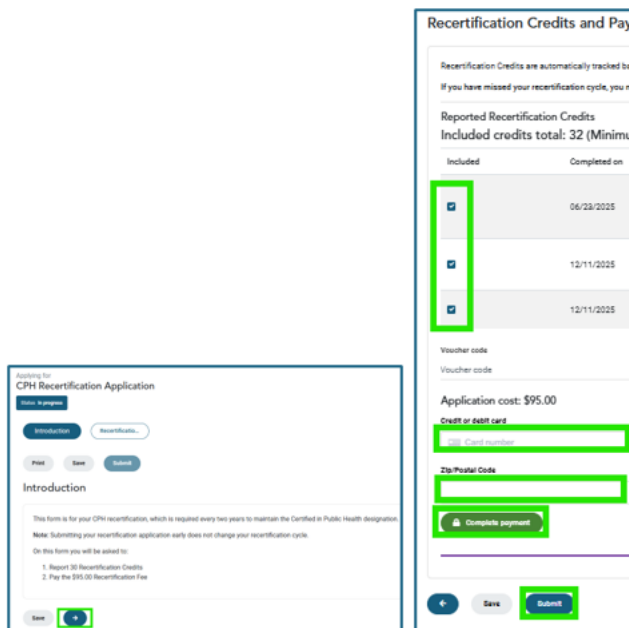
1. For instructions on reporting recertification credits, see **Page 11-13**.
2. Log into NBPHE’s **CertCentral Portal**. **Note:** You already have a CPH account, please do not create a new one. Email us at [info@nbphe.org](mailto:info@nbphe.org) if you are having issues login in.
3. Click on “Dashboard” to the left and select “View Recertification Details.”



4. Once all required credits are reported, you will see your progress status change to “Recertification Ready” in green. Click on 3: “Apply for Recertification.”



5. Click on the arrow to go to the next page of the application and make sure there’s a checkmark under the “Include” column next to all credits you are reporting with your application, enter your credit card information, click on “Complete Payment.” If the system does not auto submit your application, **make sure to click on “Submit” for your application to be submitted for review.**



**NOTE:** If you have any questions or need assistance with updating your information or applying for your CPH reinstatement, please do not hesitate to contact NBPHE staff at [info@nbphe.org](mailto:info@nbphe.org).

*Thank you for your continued commitment to public health. We look forward to staying connected with you!*

## Recertification Audit Policy

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The policy outlines the recertification audit process to verify certificants' completion of credits earned during their certification cycle.

In the recertification application, certificants are asked to provide written details about each recertification activity. Details include:

- Name of activity
- Description of activity
- Provider (if applicable)
- Start and end dates
- Number of recertification credits earned

No documentation is uploaded during the recertification process, though certificants are advised to retain supporting documentation in the event they are selected for an audit.

NBPHE reserves the right to independently conduct an audit to verify recertification credits reported by a certificant. If selected for an audit review, the certificant will be asked to submit documentation substantiating the credits reported on their recertification application. The certificant's attestation on their recertification application duly authorizes NBPHE to conduct such independent verification.

NBPHE randomly audits approximately 5% of certificant recertification applications for review. A certificant selected for review will be contacted by NBPHE's certification staff and will be required to submit verifiable documentation (i.e., college transcript, certificate of completion, copy of article, program brochure, flyer, syllabus, or roster) for each activity listed in the recertification application. It is recommended that certificants retain all recertification activity records and documentation for at least two years following the cycle end date. If there are any discrepancies or concerns, NBPHE's certification staff can instruct the certificant to provide additional information.

Upon review if NBPHE's certification staff deny the recertification credit for any reported program or activity, the certificant will be given 30 days to report additional hours to cure the deficiency. The certificant will remain authorized to use their credential designation during this 30-day period. If the deficiency is not cured within the 30-day period, a deficiency notice will be sent. If the necessary recertification credits remain unreported, the certificant will no longer be certified and will not be authorized to use the credential designation.

## Incomplete Recertification Applications

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Recertification applications are considered incomplete if any of the required information is missing and/or illegible, or the appropriate fee is not included. Certificants will be notified via email that the recertification application is incomplete and what must be done to complete the application. These notices will include a deadline for response.

If the certificant does not respond within thirty (30) days, notification will be sent to inform the certificant that the recertification application is invalid and will not be processed. The certificant notified of the consequences for failing to recertify. If a certificant fails to resolve noted deficiencies of an incomplete application within the timeframe established by NBPHE, all fees will be forfeited.

## Recertification Application Review and Approval

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Certificants will receive an email notification once their online application has been submitted for review. NBPHE's certification staff will contact the certificant if there are any questions regarding their application. Failure to respond to the inquiry may jeopardize the certificant's active CPH status. Certificants who have met all recertification requirements will have their recertification application status marked as approved by NBPHE's certification staff. Certificants will receive an email notice from NBPHE with instructions on how to download their new certificate that includes:

- the certificant's name
- certification type
- date of initial certification
- identification number
- NBPHE Board Chair's signature
- expiration date

The online [CPH Directory](#) is NBPHE's searchable database which includes the CPH certificant's name, CPH number, certification status, issue and expiration date of the CPH certification. Recertification applications will not be accepted from individuals whose certification is in a state of suspension or has been revoked.

## Failure to Recertify

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Recertification is mandatory for all certificant. If certification is not renewed by the expiration date, it will expire and be deemed lapsed 31 days after the expiration date. Individuals whose certification has expired, been suspended, or revoked may not represent themselves as certified and may not use the CPH designation until they receive official notice that the recertification requirements have been satisfied or that certification status has been reinstated.

## CPH Reinstatement Requirement

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If the certification has been expired for 30 days or more, an individual may reinstate their CPH certification by meeting all of the published recertification requirements. **Note:** If the certification has expired for more than 5 years, an individual who wishes to regain their credential must meet all eligibility requirements in effect at the time of re-application and pass the CPH certification exam.

To reinstate, lapse CPH certificant will need to:

- Report a minimum of 30 recertification credits earned within their two (2) year cycle and report additional 30 recertification credits for every two-year recertification cycle missed.
- Attest to complying with the [NBPHE's Code of Ethics](#) included in the online application.
- Submit the CPH Reinstatement Application and fee of \$95.

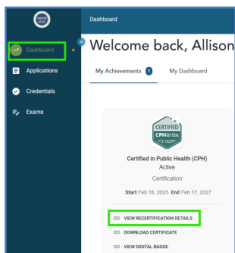
## Submitting the CPH Reinstatement Application

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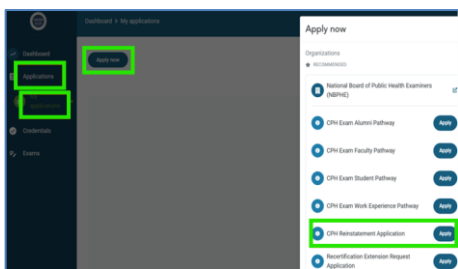
The online CPH Reinstatement Application is available to all lapsed CPHs via NBPHE's [CertCentral Portal](#). Lapsed certificant must report 30 recertification credits within their two-year cycle along with additional 30 credits for every 2-year cycle missed.

1. For instructions on reporting recertification credits, **see Page 11-13.**

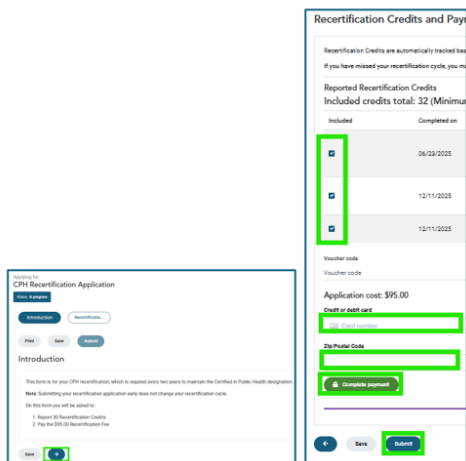
2. Log into NBPHE's [CertCentral Portal](#). **Note:** You already have a CPH account, please do not create a new one. Email us at [info@nbphe.org](mailto:info@nbphe.org) if you are having issues login in.
3. Click on “Dashboard” to the left and select “View Recertification Details.”



4. Once you have reported all the required credits, you can now apply to Reinstatement! Click on “Applications,” then “My Applications,” select “Apply Now,” and click on “Apply” next to the CPH Reinstatement Application.



5. Click on the arrow to go to the next page of the application and make sure there's a checkmark under the “Include” column next to all credits you are reporting with your application, enter your credit card information, click on “Complete Payment”. If the system does not auto submit your application, **make sure to click on “Submit” for your application to be submitted for review.**



## CPH Retired Status

A CPH certificant with active status may want to relinquish their active status due to retirement. To apply for retired status, the certificant must (1) have a credential in good standing and (2) no longer earn primary remuneration for practicing in the field.

To apply for a retired status, the certificant needs to submit a Retired Status Application to the NBPHE. A processing fee of \$95 is required. Retired credential holders do not need to report continuing education. Retired credential holders must use the Retired designation.

If certification has been in a retired status for more than two (2) years, an individual must reapply for certification, attest to the code of ethics, meet all eligibility requirements in effect at the time of re-application, and pass the examination.

## Recertification Appeals

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The recertification decision will be based solely on materials submitted by, or on behalf of, the certificant. Appeals regarding recertification eligibility and status must be submitted in writing to the NBPHE President at within thirty (30) calendar days after the adverse decision or notification. The certificant must submit the appeal in writing (email is acceptable: [info@nbphe.org](mailto:info@nbphe.org)) and explain in detail: 1) The nature of the request and the specific facts and circumstances supporting the request, and 2) all reasons why the action or decision should be changed or modified. The certificant must also provide accurate copies of all supporting documents. The NBPHE President will review the appeal within 15 days. If the issue can be resolved at the staff level, the NBPHE President will make a determination and will notify the National Board of the result.

If the issue cannot be resolved by the NBPHE President, the National Board will appoint an ad hoc Appeals Committee to review the appeal. The appeal will also be referred to the Appeals Committee if the certificant does not accept a determination by the NBPHE President.

The Appeals Committee will review the appeal and make a determination within sixty (60) days. A decision issued by the Appeals Committee may be appealed to and heard by the full National Board. The decision of the National Board is final.

## Confidentiality of Records

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All information submitted by certificants in connection with recertification, audits, appeals, or reinstatement is treated as confidential. Recertification records are used solely for certification-related purposes and are accessible only to authorized NBPHE staff, auditors, or committee members involved in certification decision-making. NBPHE maintains administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of certificant records.

## Questions

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All questions and requests for information about the Certified in Public Health (CPH) recertification process should be directed to:

**National Board of Public Health Examiners**

Email: [info@nbphe.org](mailto:info@nbphe.org)

Phone: 202-296-3050

Web: <https://www.nbphe.org/>