



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Section of Rural and Community Health Systems
State Office of Emergency Medical Services

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March 18, 2020

TO: EMS Regional Grantees and all EMS Instructors

FROM: Todd McDowell, NRP, Office of EMS Manager 

SUBJECT: Interim Policy on Courses and Psychomotor Exams

Due to rapidly changing events surrounding COVID-19 and a need to protect both current and future EMS responders, the Office of EMS is issuing an interim policy for on-going courses. All EMS courses, including any psychomotor testing for EMS courses, that are complete or near complete, will be required to modify the delivery of the course and testing to accomplish social distancing. This policy is effective from March 19, 2020 through April 30, 2020 and may be adjusted due to changing events. Within the next 48 hours, stakeholders will receive an invite via email to join an informational phone call conducted by the Office of EMS staff. The primary focus of discussion will center on cognitive testing and EMS courses moving forward.

Courses:

- Effective March 19, 2020 all courses currently being conducted must change to a distance delivery model. In person classes and/or skills labs are no longer permitted and are not approved.
- Courses not already approved for distance delivery must be restructured for distance learning. Amended course dates and a syllabus for these courses must be submitted to and approved by the Office of EMS.
- Instructors who cannot meet these requirements will have their courses suspended.

Psychomotor Exam:

- Instructor verification that the student is competent in required skills will replace the psychomotor exam.

Further guidance will be issued as developments occur. We appreciate your dedication to the Alaska EMS system and the services you provide across the State of Alaska.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at todd.mcdowell@alaska.gov or (907) 465-8634.