



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY


Department of Health and Social Services

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

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June 5, 2020

TO: EMS Regional Grantees and all EMS Instructors

FROM: Todd McDowell, NRP, Office of EMS Manager 

SUBJECT: Updated Interim Policy on Courses, Exams and Provisional Certifications

All EMS courses will be subject to the following policy effective **June 5, 2020**. This policy is to provide guidance for instructors on facilitating EMT courses with regards to didactic, skills practice, exams, provisional certification and continued certifications. This will be in effect until guidelines and or State Health Mandates regarding phases of reopening are updated.

Required for both Didactic and Skills Labs

- All persons must wear cloth face masks and must maintain at least 6 feet between each individual at all times.
- Hand sanitizer and handwashing facilities must be available for student use.
- All students must be pre-screened each day of class prior to entering classroom or building space for fever or history of either a fever or any other minor symptoms per [CDC guidelines](#) within the previous 72 hours.
- Any symptomatic or ill student will not be permitted to attend classes.

Didactic Portion of Courses:

- Distance learning is preferred.

Skills Labs

- All Skills Labs must be conducted using the proper PPE required to protect individuals from COVID-19 this includes masks (surgical/N95,100), gloves and eye protection.
- Unless necessary to demonstrate a skill such as vital signs and certain splinting devices simulation will be conducted using a mannequin rather than a live patient.
- Mannequins must be disinfected according to manufacturer guidelines between each student use.
- Partner assistance will be verbalized when feasible.

State Exams

- Students passing the written course final provided by the instructor with verification of skills that is documented in the Student's Skills Profile may apply for a Provisional Certification valid for two years.
- For continued certification of a Provisional Certification an individual will need to successfully pass the State Cognitive Written Exam prior to the Provisional Certification expiring. Individuals attempting the State Cognitive Written Exam per regulations will have the opportunity for multiple attempts. The Provisional Certification will be suspended after any failed attempt until successful passing the State Cognitive Written Exam.
- Students must pass the State Written Cognitive Exam within 2 years after the Provisional Certification has been issued in order to continue as a Certified EMT provider.
- Course instructors must verify and document student skills competency on the Skills Portfolio form, which will count in place of students taking the State Practical Exams for EMT-I, EMT-II, and EMT-III levels.
- Courses that had finished prior to this memorandum and had not been able to offer a State Practical Examination for their students, instructors are requested to contact the Office of EMS.

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.