



STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Health and Social Services
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Interim COVID-19 EMT Certification Process

(March 30, 2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic requires a rapid change in how the EMS Office oversees and accredits training courses and certification to ensure that we can meet the pressing need for as many trained EMS providers as possible. This must be accomplished without exposing these providers nor their trainers to infectious risk. The Office is using its authority to make these necessary changes as described in the interim course and certification requirements described below.

Courses

- Per guidance issued by this office, titled Interim Policy on Courses and Practicals (March 18, 2020), all courses currently being conducted must change to a distance delivery model. In person classes and 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.

Course Exams

- Instructors must provide the students with an on-line final course exam.
- In order to maintain safe social distancing, exams must be administered to the student at their home or while on duty.

Student Certification

To be eligible for a Student Certification, individuals must be affiliated with a Fire or EMS agency and have completed the didactic course and passed the course final exam.

- Upon successful completion of the didactic course and course final exam, the student will be issued a Student Certification which allows the student to practice at the level of the course taken with the following limitations:
 - The affiliated department will assign Service Mentors for the student to ride and work with. Service Mentors must be members of the department and may be the course instructor.
 - A Service Mentor must be certified at or above the Student Certification level of the student.
 - Persons holding a Student Certification will be considered part of the EMS crew for responses, however, they must not work alone at their student certification level or without their Service Mentor.



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- Service Mentors will verify the course required skills while the student is on duty in order to minimize unnecessary time being spent in groups or at duty stations.
 - The Service Mentor will notify the course instructor of completion and competency of the course required skills.
- The course instructor will notify the Office of EMS that the student has completed their skills verification with the assigned Service Mentor.
- Upon completion of their skills verification with their service mentor, an individual with a Student Certification will be issued a Provisional Certification.

Provisional Certification

A Provisional Certification will be issued to an individual holding a Student Certification who has completed and showed competency in the course's required skills verification.

- A provisional certification is valid for one (1) year from the date it is issued by the Office of EMS.
- A provisional certification allows the holder to practice without supervision and under the full authorized scope of practice as determined by the department medical director.

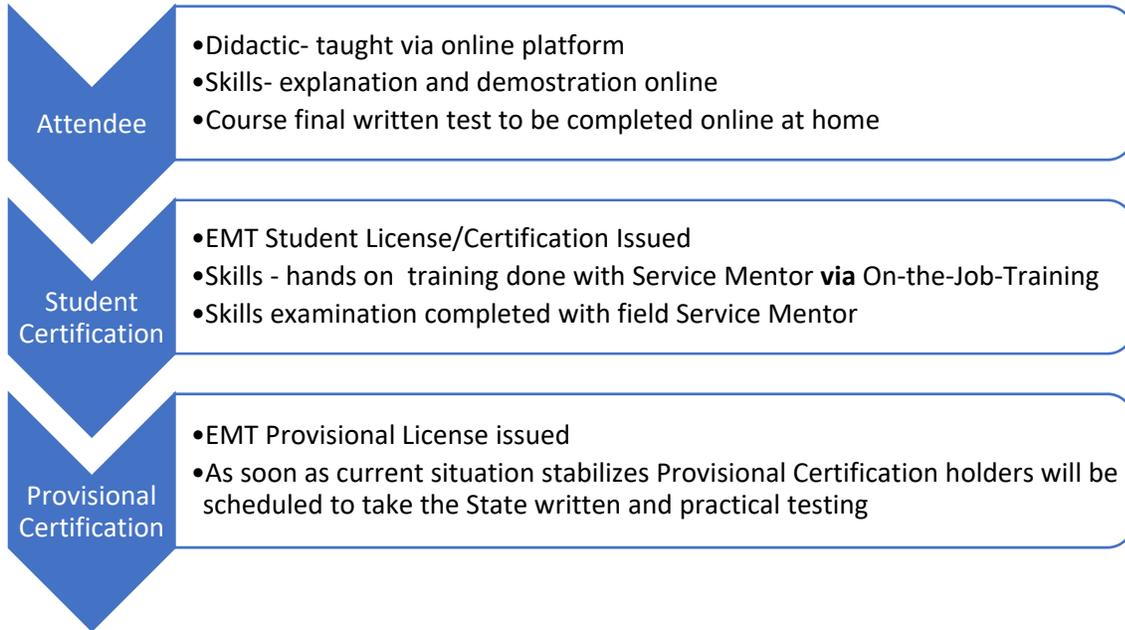
End of Interim Process

- This Interim process will remain in effect until it is rescinded by the Office of EMS. At that time, student and provisional certification holders will be required to take and pass the formal state written and practical exams.

Contact: Office of Emergency Medical Services 907-465-8634, EMSInfo@alaska.gov



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This interim policy is being issued as a temporary waiver under 7 AAC 26.050(1)(F) and 7 AAC 26.060(h), and is an exercise of the Office of EMS's discretion and authority under 7 AAC 26.060(g).