



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

P.O. Box 110616
350 Main Street, Suite 530
Juneau, AK 99811-0616
Main: 907.465.3140

May 1, 2020

TO: EMS Regional Grantees and all EMS Instructors

FROM: Todd McDowell, NRP, Office of EMS Manager 

SUBJECT: Updated Interim Policy on Courses and Exams

All EMS courses will be subject to the following policies effective **May 1, 2020**. These policies will be in effect until further guidance is issued and will be adjusted as State Health Mandates and phases of reopening warrants.

All classes must provide a written COVID – 19 mitigation plan to the State Office of EMS for approval prior to conducting any in person training according to the following guidelines and must include the square footage of the room being used. Plans should be turned in with course approval requests and courses will not be approved until both course materials and plans are approved. Course instructors that fail to submit a plan will not have their course approved.

All approved plans must then be disseminated to all students prior to conducting a course or any skills labs.

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.
- No more than 25 percent of maximum classroom occupancy to include students will be allowed.
- 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 current fever, fever within past 72 hours, and any symptoms per [CDC guidelines](#).
- Any symptomatic or ill student will not be allowed to attend classes.

Didactic Portion of Courses:

- Distance learning is **preferred**.

Skills Labs

- Unless skills require actual vital signs i.e. blood pressure, mannequins must be used in place of live patients when practicing skills
- Mannequins must be disinfected according to manufacturer's guidelines between each student.
- Partner assistance will be verbalized.

State Exams

- Students passing their written course final with verification of skills from the course instructor will be issued a provisional certification valid for 2 years. Barrier crimes and use of criminal background checks will still apply.
- Students must pass the State written and psychomotor test within those 2 years in order to be fully certified.
- Upon first failure of either exam the provisional certification will be suspended and the student may reattempt tests as per regulations. Once state exams are passed a certification will be issued.

Further guidance will be issued as policies and changes 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.