

Chad Blosser

From: Chad Blosser
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2020 3:46 PM
To: 'chad.blosser@vdh.virginia.gov'
Cc: 'Akers, Deborah'
Subject: EMS Portal Upgrade and EMS Certification Update
Attachments: Quick Guide - Oracle APEX Upgrade - What to Exepect (Locked).pdf; Virginia Provisional Certification Card Sample - Encrypted.pdf

This is a blanket e-mail message to all certified Education Coordinators and ALS Coordinators.

Dear Education Coordinator,

First and foremost, the Office of EMS would like to thank you for all you are doing for your communities and the Commonwealth during the current COVID-19 pandemic. We sincerely appreciate your dedication, service and steadfastness during these unprecedented times.

I have three updates that I would like to share with you this afternoon.

Virginia EMS Portal Upgrade

Friday morning, April 3, 2020, the Office will release a major update to Oracle APEX, which will affect the front-end user interface (UI) and the back-end development tools for the Virginia EMS Portal. This update will include enhanced security for the Virginia EMS Portal and a new UI look and feel.

We are keenly aware that this is not the most opportune time for an upgrade to the Virginia EMS Portal, however this upgrade has been scheduled for several months and our IT Team requires this upgrade now in order for future development activities to continue to take place.

The Virginia EMS Portal and all web applications associated with the portal database (e.g. Course Lookup, EMS Provider Search, Licensure, Compliance & Regulation, eGIFT etc.) will be down for maintenance on Thursday, April 2, 2020 from 3:45 PM until April 3, 2020 at 3:00 AM. We appreciate your patience while our IT Team conducts this important maintenance on our database.

Besides a new look and feel to the Virginia EMS Portal on desktop and laptop computers, this Oracle APEX update is adding much needed functionality for mobile devices—something EMS providers have been requesting for some time.

Please see the attached Quick Guide which will provide you with an overview of the changes you can expect with this upgrade. We are excited about the possibilities this new version of Oracle APEX will provide us as we move into the future.

National Registry Certification Extensions

The National Registry is currently in the process of programming updates for the extension of National Registry expirations (for those who have yet to recertify) from March 31, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

NREMT also decided to eliminate the distributive education requirements for this cycle as well, in order to allow EMS providers to complete needed hours through distributive education. The availability of completing online continuing education through distributive education was already available for Virginia providers.

National Registry Provisional Certification

National Registry has been cancelling scheduled psychomotor exams since mid-March and will not be approving any new psychomotor exams for an undetermined period. Based on the fact that more than 60% of states have issued Stay-At-Home and social distancing orders, the Board of the National Registry has approved the issuance of a provisional certification. In Virginia, this will only impact the Advanced EMT and Paramedic certification levels.

A provisional National Registry certification is issued when a student:

1. completes their certification program according to state or CoAEMSP requirements, and
2. sits for and passes the National Registry cognitive exam.
3. When these items are completed, a 2-year provisional National Registry certification will be issued. The issued certification will clearly indicate the awarding of provisional certification pending completion of the psychomotor exam when successfully completed.

Provisional certifications can be converted to full certification once the COVID-19 threat is mitigated and the student takes and passes their NREMT required psychomotor exam.

Virginia will begin accepting and likewise issuing provisional certification cards when the National Registry begins transmitting these results to us. Please see the attached sample provisional Virginia certification card. We are providing this sample to you so that you are aware of what we will be issuing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The sample is highlighted to indicate the changes that will be made to certification cards issued under this provisional authority.

The issuance of a provisional certification by the Virginia Office of EMS is not reflective that the Office is restricting provider practice. The ability for a provider to practice is solely up to the EMS Agency and the agency's Operational Medical Director. We are issuing provisional certifications as a means of ensuring that we have a mechanism to track these providers and ensure that they complete their certification process once the COVID-19 threat is mitigated.

When being scheduled for work, National Registry strongly urges that no two provisionally certified providers work on the same truck. There should always be a fully certified provider riding with a provisionally certified provider.

Should a provider who was granted provisional Virginia certification based off of a National Registry provisional certification not fulfill the requirements of their National Registry certification, the Office of EMS will initiate the process of revocation of the provider's certification in the Commonwealth.

Again, thank you for all you do in support of Virginia's EMS System. Your dedication and service to Virginia during these extraordinary times is commendable!

Stay safe, remember social distancing and please wash your hands!

Best,

Chad

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The Office of EMS continues to monitor the ongoing situation regarding the spread of COVID-19. For more information and updates on COVID-19 please visit the link below: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/coronavirus-2019-covid-19/>

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