

Chad Blosser

From: Chad Blosser
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:26 AM
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Cc: 'Akers, Deborah'; 'gary.brown@vdh.virginia.gov'; Adam Harrell; 'Owens, Karen'
Subject: COVID-19 Update #8 for EMS Educators

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

Dear Educator,

As National EMS Week draws to a close and Memorial Day approaches, Debbie and I would like to thank you for all you do as educators to improve Virginia's EMS system. Please take some time over the long holiday weekend to rest and relax and try to shake off the COVID-19 funk.

And now for some updates...

Provider Mental Health Resources

As the COVID-19 pandemic stretches into its third month here in the Commonwealth, we wanted to take a second to thank you for being on the front lines in helping to serve our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your service as an EMS provider matters, and you truly are making a difference in helping to save lives and defeat this invisible enemy.

Nonetheless, these days can be even more emotionally and physically demanding than usual. It is completely normal to be concerned for yourself, your loved ones, and your community. Below are some helpful resources to help you manage stress during the pandemic response. We will be updating this page regularly as more resources become available. <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/covid19mentalhealthresources/>

- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/23/2020/03/Managing-Stress-During-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf>
- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/23/2020/05/End-The-Stigma.pdf>

Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT)

The Office—specifically the ACE Division—understands that institutions, program directors, medical directors, are working diligently to find ways to continue the education of EMS students and Virginia providers during this extraordinary time. The Office continues to seek out and find alternative pathways to assure excellence in education while maintaining compliance with the National Registry and Virginia regulatory requirements.

Debbie has spent the past few weeks working with the National Registry to eliminate hurdles and expand the ability for Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) to be allowed to count as Category 1 education. After much discussion, the Office of EMS and National Registry will begin accepting VILT instruction as Category 1 CE starting July 1, 2020.

Virtual instructor-Led training (VILT) refers to training that is delivered in a real-time, virtual or simulated environment where the instructor and learner are in separate locations. VILT environments are designed to simulate the traditional classroom or learning experience while allowing for more access to training for educators and students.

At the present time, Division staff are reaching out to a wide variety of VILT educators across the Commonwealth and nationally to seek input for guidelines that we will be instituting for this new method of instruction. More information on this will be coming in future updates once we have put the finishing touches on TPAM policies and a new TR-01-VILT Course Approval Request form for your use.

CDC Guidance for Educational Institutions/Programs

If you are not aware, the Centers for Disease Control maintains a webpage with guidance documents for various different groups and organizations pertaining to COVID-19. We are sharing the latest revision to "Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education which is now available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/guidance-administrators-college-higher-education.pdf>

Stay well and please try to find some time for a break from "EMS related" activities if at all possible over this holiday. Oh, and I can't forget: Wash your hands!

Best,

Chad

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Please let us know how we are doing by [clicking here](#) to complete a short customer experience survey.

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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