

## Chad Blosser

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**From:** Chad Blosser  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 01, 2020 6:40 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Update #12 for EMS Educators

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

Dear Educator,

Good afternoon. It's hard to believe that fall is here and the leaves are changing color! If you are anything like me, it is difficult to remember what day of the week it is, much less what month it is. Here are some updates as we move into fall and resume EMS education across the Commonwealth.

### Forward Virginia Status

Presently, the entire Commonwealth is in Phase 3 of Forward Virginia. During this phase of the recovery, EMS training programs should require participants to wear face coverings/masks while indoors in public settings and continued social distancing of 6 ft per the Governor's current executive orders.

- Please consider using the *TR-900 Student Screening Log* for all your programs. This can be a useful tool for Contract Tracers in your area should there be an exposure in your classroom.

### COVID-19 Positive Student(s) in Your Classroom

If your class is affected by a staff member or student testing positive for COVID-19, please:

1. Reach out to the Local Health District where your class took place and make them aware of the fact that someone in your face-to-face EMS course notified you that they had tested positive. Let the Local Health District employee know that you have rosters and contact information for everyone that the individual came in contact with.
2. Follow all of the guidance from the Local Health District with regard to cleaning, notifications of students and when it would be appropriate to continue your class. You may want to consider moving your didactic portion to an online format and cancel all in-person classes until you receive guidance from VDH.

### Education Coordinator/ALS-Coordinator Updates

The schedule of updates and links to register to attend an update can be found on the OEMS web page at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-educator-update-schedule/> *A change of location has taken place with the October 10, 2020 update. It is now being held at: East Rivanna Volunteer Fire Company, 3501 Steamer Dr., Keswick, VA 22947.*

Due to restrictions in place for COVID-19 and in keeping with the Governor's Phase Three Guidelines, we will be required to institute a registration process for all EC Updates until the pandemic is over. EC Updates will look and feel different for the foreseeable future with:

- continued social distancing, and
- participants wearing face coverings/masks while indoors in public settings.

## Virginia EMS Portal Two-Factor Authentication

Late last week, our IT Team put into production an upgrade for the two-factor authentication used to verify an individual's identity and allow for on-the-fly password changes.

By default, two-factor authentication now uses SMS to send a 6-digit authentication token to the user's cellphone which must be entered before the EMS Portal allows a password to be reset. The addition of this new method for two-factor authentication is a much needed enhancement to our security and the ability for end-users to make password resets without the need to call or e-mail the OEMS Help Desk.

## Virginia CE Requirements

As of today (October 1, 2020), very few providers will be left on the 2012 CE recertification cycle. Therefore, we released an update recertification worksheet which combines BLS and ALS CE hours together on one easy-to-read page.

The revised *Recertifying Your Virginia EMS Credentials* webpage has been published and can be found at the following link: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/recertifying-your-virginia-ems-credential/>

Also as a part of this redesign, the requirements for *Provider's in Reentry* were separated into a new webpage to help distinguish reentry from recertification, which provider's often confuse. The new *EMS Providers in Reentry* webpage can be found at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-providers-in-reentry/>

## National Registry Recert 2.0

Next week, the Office will publish a new version of the *National Registry Recert 2.0* document which details the steps Virginia EMS Provider's should follow to recertify their National Registry certification if they are in the March 2021 recertification cycle. This information is highlighted on the main OEMS webpage as well as on the revised *Recertifying Your Virginia EMS Credentials* webpage.

## New Process for Enrolling Foreign Nationals in EMS Programs

- Foreign nationals must reach out to Debbie Akers ([deborah.t.akers@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:deborah.t.akers@vdh.virginia.gov)) with a copy of their Visa for further guidance.
- The US State Department may be involved.
- OEMS will assign a fictitious SSN which can then be used for completion of the online enrollment process the same as all other providers.

## Quick Reminders

- OEMS is NOT extending certifications at this time.
- All BLS certifications issued by the National Registry and likewise Virginia are FULL certifications. The Office has waived the BLS Psychomotor examination process until July 1, 2021.
- Pearson VUE OnVUE is still available for EMT and AEMT students seeking to take their NREMT cognitive exam by remote proctoring.
- Virginia is issuing provisional certifications for Advanced EMT and Paramedic candidates based upon their NREMT cognitive exam results. All provisional certifications must be converted to a full certification by December 31, 2021. The Division of Regulation and Compliance will seek the immediate return of all provisional certifications as of January 1, 2022. If a provider has completed the psychomotor examination and received full certification with the National Registry they are pending with OEMS. We are currently working with our IT team to convert their provisional certification to full certification with Virginia and should have this completed by no later than October 31, 2020.

- *Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) and Webcasting of Continuing Education* are two distinct processes which cannot be mixed together.
  - VILT instruction is synchronous education and is meant for individuals attending your course remotely with an active web-cam and microphone. These sessions can be held via Zoom, GoToWebinar, Microsoft Teams, etc. as long as the [Delivering High-Quality Instruction Online \(VILT\)](#) manual is followed.
  - Webcasting CE is a method of synchronously teaching CE from one single “transmit” site to multiple “remote” sites which have many students who are being proctored. More on Webcasting of Continuing Education in Virginia can be found at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/23/2016/05/Handbook-for-Webcasting-of-Continuing-Education-Programming-July-2020.pdf>
- Education Coordinators can now have their student’s FBI background check run for free. Background checks for students are not required at this time. Please see the following URL: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/regulations-compliance/fingerprinting/ems-student-fingerprinting/>
- OEMS is offering free VILT programming for all Virginia EMS providers. Information about the program and registration can be found in the [EMS Virtual Learning Center](#).

Take care of yourself and stay safe!

Best,

Chad

Chad Blosser | Education Program Manager | Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services | Division of Accreditation, Certification & Education | 1041 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23059 | 804.888.9124 (p) | 804.371.3409 (f) | [chad.blosser@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:chad.blosser@vdh.virginia.gov) | [www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/)

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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