

## Chad Blosser

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**From:** Chad Blosser  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:54 AM  
**To:** Chad Blosser  
**Cc:** Deborah Akers; 'Owens, Karen'; Ronald Passmore  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Update #17 for EMS Educators

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

Dear Educator,

Good morning! We have a few updates for you that we would like to share, so without further delay, let's jump right in to the content.

### Virginia EMS Portal Enhancements

On the morning of February 24, 2021, there will be several updates to the EMS Portal which will directly impact educators. I have created a video tutorial to help demonstrate these changes. Please click on the following link to access this tutorial. <https://youtu.be/8DAyV3VYUt8>

Changes in brief:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer (MSIE) no longer supported.
- Changes to the Course Student Disposition Report (CSDR) Data Entry Process
- New "CE Summary Report" for agency users with a SuperUser, Updater or Inquiry role code.

### Refresh 2021 & Prodigy Continuing Education

Refresh 2021 provides 30 hours of CAPCE accredited education that will be accepted by NREMT and Virginia. Because of the waiver on limits to Distributive Education (DE) during the pandemic the course can be used to satisfy the National hours for EMT or Paramedic recertification. Any additional hours can be used to satisfy the Individual training hour requirements.

The Virginia Office of EMS is working with Prodigy to have continuing education competitions for Virginia EMS providers submitted to the Office for processing and application to Virginia provider CE Reports.

- The transfer of data will be manual, so CE credits **will not immediately show up on your CE Report** like with Virginia-based/approved programs.
- **Virginia Education Coordinators ARE NOT authorized to award CE earned from Refresh 2021 or from Prodigy.**

### Awarding of Continuing Education Not Approved (or Earned) in Virginia

A friendly reminder to all on how to award comparable credit for continuing education (CE) earned outside of Virginia or from a course not announced/approved in Virginia.

First and foremost, the Virginia Office of EMS **does not review, process or award** CE (CAT 1 or CAT2) for continuing education (CE) earned outside of Virginia or from a course not announced/approved in Virginia.

Virginia certified Education Coordinators are given the autonomy to award continuing education credit for courses taken outside of Virginia by Virginia certified providers. This autonomy comes with responsibilities on the part of Education Coordinator.

Virginia DOES NOT however require that Education Coordinators award such credit. It is a personal decision on the part of the educator as to whether they wish to take on this responsibility.

- The Education Coordinator shall ensure that appropriate documentation of the awarding of comparable credit is maintained on file. Appropriate documentation includes, but may not be limited to:
  - Any e-mail messages transmitted or received between the EC and the provider pertaining to this subject.
  - A roster (TR-06) must be completed for all credit awarded.
  - A list of course number(s) and topics for which CE was issued must be maintained.
  - A copy of the certificate issued by the trainer/conference/out-of-state educator must be maintained.
  - A copy of the conference or training event catalog with course descriptions must be maintained.
- CE credit shall be submitted within 15-days of the final decision to award credit in compliance with **12VAC5-31-1437 - Continuing education record submission.**

## **2020 National EMS Education Standards (NEMSES)**

Since initial publication in 2009, the National EMS Education Standards have helped educators, certification bodies, and regulators ensure that EMS practitioners receive an education that prepares them to perform at the appropriate level.

After a decade, it was determined that it was time to revisit the NEMSES standards to ensure they align with both the recently revised 2019 National EMS Scope of Practice Model, and current best practices and evidence in prehospital care.

The National EMS Education Standards outline the minimal competencies for entry-level EMS clinicians to achieve within the parameters outlined in the 2019 Scope of Practice Model. Education programs should contemplate the Standards when developing curricula, for national consistency. The Standards' format will allow diverse implementation methods to meet local needs and evolving education practices. The less prescriptive format of the Standards will also allow for ongoing revision of content consistent with scientific evidence, advances in technology, known "best practices" and community standards of care.

The National EMS Education Standards are not meant to stand as a comprehensive document guiding the entire development of EMS clinicians, but rather one part of a comprehensive system. EMS education programs will incorporate each element of the education system proposed in the Education Agenda.

This integrated system approach to EMS education is essential to achieving the goal of developing EMS clinicians across the country who are competent in the appropriate knowledge, skills, and abilities for their licensure level. Noteworthy revisions found in the 2021 edition of the National EMS Education Standards are based upon inputs and considerations obtained from numerous sources. These include stakeholder comments, public comments, previous and related governmental resource documents (the original 2009 National EMS Education Standards, EMS Agenda 2050, and the newly revised 2019 National Scope of Practice Model), NREMT's practice analysis, technological advances, known and evolving best practices, and evidence-based medicine.

The following areas within the Standards had notable revisions: public health, pediatrics, geriatrics, behavioral/psychiatric, cultural humility, EMS operations, pharmacology, and EMS safety, wellness and resilience. Input was provided and every suggestion or recommendation was evaluated. Revision and adjustments were based on a team discussion (with expert consultation, when needed). Numerous revisions were made; not all comments required alteration. Three differing public comment periods were utilized for further input and transparency.

The 2021 National EMS Education Standards are expected to be released in March 2021. An implementation timeline for the new 2021 NEMSES in Virginia will be provided at a later date and will include regional roll-outs, implementation dates and psychomotor testing requirements pending the updates to the state's COVID-19 pandemic protocols which would permit OEMS to have meetings with large groups of individuals.

### **Advanced EMT Accreditation**

The 2019 National EMS Scope of Practice Model subject matter expert panel recommended requiring AEMT program accreditation by January 1, 2025. The panel deliberated and came to a consensus on the matter with the involvement of 13 stakeholders and various independent contributors.

The Education Standards revision team supports this recommendation. The revision team deliberated the topic and concluded that accreditation is an identified goal of the 2000 EMS Education Agenda as well. Program accreditation helps ensure clinical and educational excellence, the use of proven practices for establishing sound EMS education programs, and adequate resources and services for educators and their students. Finally, accreditation requires EMS education.

### **Training & Certification Committee**

Based on existing COVID-19 restrictions—specifically Executive Orders 51, 63, 67 & 72 as amended— The Office of EMS is planning a face-to-face meeting of Training & Certification Committee to be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

- Due to the need for social distancing under current Executive Orders, **the general public will not be allowed to attend this meeting in person.**
  - The meeting will be broadcast via a live synchronous webinar with a timed public comment period. A link to the synchronous meeting room will be provided here at a later date.
  - At the end of the meeting, public comment would be allowed per the same guidelines in place for the EMS Advisory Board meetings.
    - Public audience members will raise their virtual hand should they wish to speak and their mic will be unmuted for 3 minutes.
    - Comments will be recorded as required.
    - Committee members are not required to respond directly to the public comment period.
- The meeting will be recorded, as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia and will be posted online in Virginia Town Hall as required.

Stay tuned to this page or Virginia Town Hall for the public link to this meeting.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/training-certification-committee-standing/april-7-2021-tcc-meeting/>

### **Quick Reminders**

1. OEMS has not and does not plan on further extensions EMS provider certifications.
2. OEMS has extended the eligibility dates for Education Coordinator Candidates. EC Candidates with an eligibility expiration of December 31, 2020 through December 31, 2021 will be extended until **June 30, 2022**.
3. OEMS has extended Education Coordinator certification dates with an expiration date of December 31, 2020 through December 31, 2021 until **June 30, 2022**.
4. The NREMT Executive Committee of the Board of Directors took action to further extend the Provisional Certification deadline until **June 30, 2021**.
  - a. NREMT provisional certifications **MUST BE** converted to a full certification by December 31, 2021. As of January 1, 2022, for providers who do not fulfill the requirements to gain full National Registry

certification, the Office of EMS will initiate the process of revocation of the provider's certification in the Commonwealth.

5. A gentle regulatory reminder: **12VAC5-31-1439. Verification of student course completion.**
  - a. This is a reminder to educators that **all students must be provided a disposition upon course end date** having been reached.
    - i. BLS students must complete all requirements within 180 days of the announced course end date or they will forfeit their opportunity to test from that program.
    - ii. ALS students have 180 days or must be enrolled in a new course to continue their path toward certification.
6. All CE is available through online resources, and providers are encouraged to use those resources. <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/provider-resources/web-based-continuing-education/>
7. The Office of EMS Management Team has decided to cancel all further Consolidated Testing at the BLS level through December 31, 2021. Further consideration of when to restart Consolidated Testing will be determined later this year by the Training & Certification and Medical Direction Committees.

Continued thanks for all you do for Virginia's EMS System. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Debbie or I.

Best,

Chad

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***Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Office of EMS is teleworking and not available in the office. We continue 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/>.***

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

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