

**Training and Certification Committee Minutes**  
**1041 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23059**  
**Wednesday, April 7, 2021 – 10:30 am**

**Members Present**

R. Jason Ferguson, Chair  
Christopher Kroboth  
Larry Oliver  
William Akers  
Steven Moring  
Matthew Lawler  
Brian McIntosh  
Bobby Lester (Virtual)  
Craig Evans (Virtual)  
Charles Lane (Virtual)

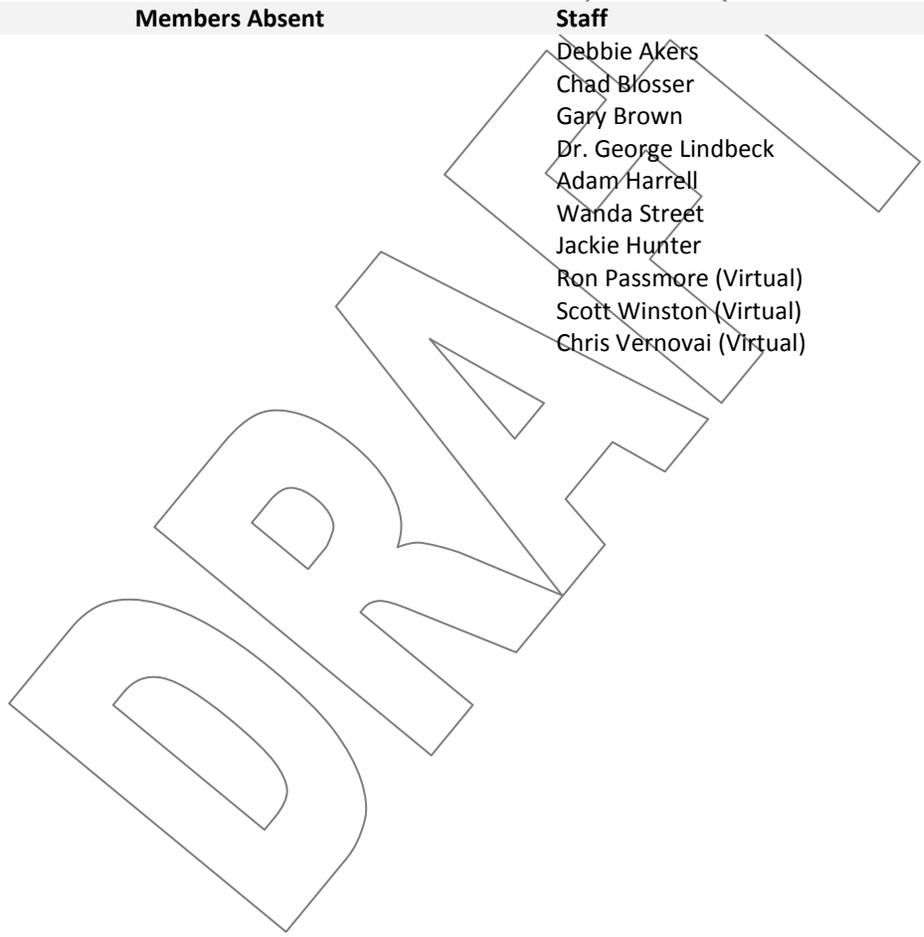
**Members Absent**

**Staff**

Debbie Akers  
Chad Blosser  
Gary Brown  
Dr. George Lindbeck  
Adam Harrell  
Wanda Street  
Jackie Hunter  
Ron Passmore (Virtual)  
Scott Winston (Virtual)  
Chris Vernovai (Virtual)

**Virtual Attendees (General Public)**

Anthony Prata  
Cathy Cockrell  
Christopher Christensen  
Damien Coy  
Donna Galganski-Pabst  
Daniel Linkins  
David Keeler  
Greg Woods  
Greg Neiman  
Heidi Hooker  
Johnathan Alford  
Lauren Hartman  
Mary Kathryn Allen  
Michelle Ludeman  
Nicholas Klimenko  
Ray Mallory  
Reginald Rivera  
Rob Logan  
Seth Craig  
Stephen Simon  
Tom Joyce  
Tracy McLaurin  
Valerie Vagts  
Wayne Perry  
William Fritz



| Topic/Subject                   | Discussion  | Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| I. Welcome                      | R. Jason Ferguson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.   |   |
| II. Introductions               | Mr. Ferguson stated that there are three new committee members – Matt Lawler, Bobby Lester and Steve Moring. Introductions were made of in-person and virtual committee members.  |   |
| III. Approval of Agenda         | The Committee reviewed the Agenda for today’s meeting. <b>(Attached)</b>  | <b>Approved by consensus</b>                          |
| IV. Approval of Minutes         | <p>The Committee reviewed the minutes of the January 15, 2020 Quarterly Meeting. Minutes available online: <a href="http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/training-certification-committee-standing/">http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/training-certification-committee-standing/</a>.</p> <p><b>A motion was made by Chris Kroboth to approve the January 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Brian McIntosh. The minutes are approved.</b></p>  |   |
| V. Reports of Committee Members | <p>A. Reports of Committee Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chairman Report – R. Jason Ferguson <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Not much to report at this time. He appreciates everyone’s attendance.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Medical Direction Committee – Dr. Charles Lane <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Per Debbie no formal meetings have been held since January 2020. Informal weekly or bi-weekly virtual meetings have been held.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Committee Members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Non-VCCS EMS Program – Steven Moring – Continuing to maintain and follow policies by OEMS and the Governor as it pertains to education.</li> <li>b. VCCS – Bill Akers – General assembly approved G3 Initiative. Chesterfield system office still working on details.</li> <li>c. VAVRS – Bobby Lester – There have been questions about when consolidated testing will restart and working through new computer system issues.</li> <li>d. Regional EMS Council Executive Directors – Craig Evans – Meetings have been held bi-weekly. Have had questions about when consolidated testing will start again and what it will look like in the future.</li> <li>e. EMSC – Vacant – No report.</li> <li>f. VAGEMSA – Larry Oliver – VAGEMSA has met once since the pandemic. This past year has been a challenge for everyone and trying to keep afloat. No specific report.</li> <li>g. Fire Based Organization – Christopher Kroboth – Nothing specific to report.</li> <li>h. Educators – Brian McIntosh – Have been reaching out to education coordinators to address concerns. Ramping up education.</li> <li>i. EMS Advisory Board – Matt Lawler – No report.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |   |

| Topic/Subject | Discussion  | Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person |
|---------------|---|---|
|               | <p>B. Office of EMS</p> <p>1. Division of Accreditation, Certification &amp; Education (ACE)</p> <p>a. Education Program Manager – Chad Blosser, OEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Virginia EMS Scholarship Program – In 3<sup>rd</sup> full year, internal preparations to launch 4<sup>th</sup> year. New scholarship year starts June 1. Chad explained the collection process.</li> <li>ii. Education Coordinator Candidate Program – There are 650 certified coordinators and this hasn't changed since last September. Currently there are 306 candidates; 33 fully eligible to attend next Institute as of yesterday; 97 (32%) have not completed any requirements of the program and 250 (81%) have completed some of their teaching hours and have not taken the National Registry exam.</li> <li>iii. Instructor Institute – Completed one in Toano in January 2020 adding 33 educators and one in September 2020 in Norfolk and added 20. An Institute is scheduled early June 2021 at Central Virginia Community College. Deadline is April 23 for Institute eligibility. Planning an Institute in Northern Virginia in late September 2021.</li> <li>iv. The Office will no longer accept any paper forms for processing beginning Jun 1, 2021.</li> <li>v. Educator concerns were discussed which centered on educators not reading, interpreting and following updated guidance information. Educator ethics and morals are declining. They are awarding CE hours falsely, backdating CE hours, failure to enroll students in class, failure to ensure students had CPR prior to class, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Brian suggested getting regional subject matter experts to assist with the first challenge. Debbie welcomes their assistance. Craig will gladly assist. Adam mentioned Zendesk as another option. Chris suggested to “tab” or categorize the TPAM according to subject matter.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>b. ACE Division Director – Debbie Akers, OEMS –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overview of COVID-19 Administrative Changes since March 2020 – Chad and the committee discussed changes that have occurred since March 2020. National Registry provisional certifications will cease issuance as of July 1, 2021.</li> <li>ii. Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) Program Policies – Dr. Lindbeck discussed the limit of 30 people and that some students have been turned away. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Chad stated that 30 people is a large number to successfully manage virtually. As the Facilitator for OEMS VILT programs, if the class is full at 30, the Facilitator is kept very busy monitoring student participation, launching polls and ensuring student questions get answered.</li> <li>b. Craig stated that we should not control the engagement but have a more compelling instructor.</li> <li>c. Brian suggested to have an instructor-student ratio.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>A workgroup is being formed for VILT.</b></p>   |

| Topic/Subject                         | Discussion  | Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
|                                       | <p>d. The committee discussed synchronous vs. asynchronous environment and the importance of F5 education. A workgroup will be formed – Steve (chair), Brian (co-chair), Craig.</p> <p>(i.) Debbie will get other VILT instructors to join the workgroup.</p> <p>iii. Prodigy EMS will not be awarded as of April 1, 2021. Cat 2 will be awarded. Discussion about Vector Solutions. OEMS is looking for a replacement for EMSAT and some EMSAT courses will still be available but outdated content will be taken off line.</p> <p>iv. National EMS Education Standards Update – The workgroup is done. It’s in the hands of NHTSA. New standards will be coming out soon. TCC and MDC will need to make decision about patient contact.</p> <p>v. Accreditation – The report was emailed to everyone and Augusta Co. was not included. The updated report is on the website. Due to COVID, no accreditation visits were held. The expiration dates will have to be extended until the end of December.</p> <p>vi. National Registry Pass Rates – The report was emailed. Virginia is 3 percentage points ahead of the national pass rates on first attempt.</p> <p>vii. BLS Certification Testing – Testing is on hold through December 31.</p> <p>2. State Medical Director – Dr. George Lindbeck – Scope of practice document modifications will be looked at tomorrow’s meeting.</p> <p>3. EMS for Children – Dave Edwards, OEMS – He is out on medical leave.</p> <p>4. Regulation &amp; Compliance – Ron Passmore – There has been questions about the House Bill to allow EMT to administer COVID-19 vaccines. There is a clarification document on the OEMS website on this. They have a meeting today at 3 p.m. and one topic is to review timeline for Chapter 32 of the Regulations.</p> <p>5. Director/Asst. Director – Gary Brown/Scott Winston – Our interactions and communications have improved during the pandemic. We have found ways to persevere and adapt this year. Advisory Board meeting scheduled Friday, May 7. Symposium will be held this year. The 2020 awards program is on the website.</p> <p>6. Other Office Division Directors – No report.</p> |   |
| <b>VI. Committee Discussion Items</b> | <p>A. Psychomotor Exam Workgroup Update – Chris Kroboth</p> <p>1. Approval of New Psychomotor Exam Framework – Two meetings were held last year. They were working with epidemiology department to create a subset of patients with different scenarios. Chad and Chris will coordinate to set a date for the next in-person meeting. Discussion to replace Jay on the workgroup. Discussion led by Craig asking if we are improving the education by performing psychomotor exams. Jason Ferguson stated that this is another measure at assessing competencies in the accreditation process. Chris stated that this is a good benchmark and check and balance for those that do not go for accreditation.</p>   |   |
| <b>VII. Previous Business</b>         | None.   |   |

| Topic/Subject                     | Discussion  | Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person            |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>VIII. New Business</b>         | <p>Christopher Kroboth – Over the past 6 months he has received a few phone calls for the best ways to handle new batch of students and entrance exams to help set up groups. He made a recommendation for OEMS to help supplement entrance exams. Chad remembers some discussion years ago about the Hobbit exam. Bill Akers stated that the first question to answer is “What is the goal of administering the exam?” Then look at the best exam for that goal. The best way to start is to come up with a list of options based upon groups per Adam. Find out what the agencies are doing. Jason suggested sending a survey from the Office to the educators on a broad scale. Adam also suggested epidemiologist group and pair them with the consulting firm we just started with and maybe get with an adult educational methodologist outside of EMS. Bring back findings by next meeting or meeting after that.</p> <p>Brian McIntosh – Discussion on extending certifications, mention to Karen Owens about extending to December. Adam will follow up with Karen this afternoon.</p> <p>Jason Ferguson - In your areas, how many are doing a non-credit paramedic program or an accelerated version of paramedic program? Discussion ensued about programs in different areas.</p> <p>Debbie Akers – National Registry is really looking at the future of testing, competency, etc. Debbie is serving on two committees Evidence-Based Guidelines Committee which is reviewing what is considered evidence-based vs. resource material. The other is the Steering Committee looking at psychomotor testing at the EMT level. She will keep everyone updated on this.</p> |  |
| <b>XI. Public Comment</b>         | <p>None.</p> <p>Jason commented that Debbie and Chad are very appreciated for their efforts. He thanked all of the OEMS staff for everything done during this pandemic.</p>   |  |
| <b>X. Dates for 2021 Meetings</b> | <p>A. Scheduled dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <del>January 6, 2021</del></li> <li>2. <del>April 7, 2021</del></li> <li>3. July 7, 2021</li> <li>4. October 6, 2021</li> </ol>  |  |
| <b>XI. Adjourn</b>                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.</li> </ol>   | <p><b>Motion by Larry Oliver, seconded by Chris Kroboth.</b></p> |

Respectfully submitted by: Wanda L. Street, Secretary Sr.  
OEMS Staff Representative  
April 7, 2021



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department of Health*

M. NORMAN OLIVER, MD, MA  
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Gary R. Brown  
Director

P. Scott Winston  
Assistant Director

Office of Emergency Medical Services  
1041 Technology Park Drive  
Glen Allen, VA 23059-4500

1-800-523-6019 (VA only)  
804-888-9100  
FAX: 804-371-3108

**Training & Certification Committee**  
**Wednesday, April 7, 2021 – 10:30 AM**

**Virginia Office of EMS**  
**1041 Technology Park Drive**  
**Glen Allen, VA 23059**

**Meeting Agenda**

- I. **Welcome**
- II. **Introductions**
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
- IV. **Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2020**
- V. **Reports of Committee Members**
  - A. **Reports of Committee Members**
    - 1. Chairman Report
    - 2. Medical Direction Committee
    - 3. Committee Members
  - B. **Office of EMS**
    - 1. Division of Accreditation, Certification & Education (ACE)
      - a. Education Program Manager – Chad Blosser, OEMS
        - a. Virginia EMS Scholarship Program Update
        - b. Education Coordinator Candidate Program
      - b. ACE Division Director – Debbie Akers, OEMS
        - a. Overview of COVID-19 Administrative Changes since March 2020
        - b. VILT Program Polices
        - c. National EMS Education Standards Update
          - i. Discussion of clinical/field contacts for 2020 NEMSES
        - d. Accreditation

- e. National Registry Pass Rates
      - f. BLS Certification Testing
    - 2. State Medical Director – Dr. George Lindbeck
    - 3. EMS for Children – Dave Edwards, OEMS
    - 4. Regulation & Compliance – Ron Passmore, OEMS
    - 5. Director/Asst. Director – Gary Brown/Scott Winston, OEMS
    - 6. Other Office Division Directors
  - VI. **Committee Discussion Items**
    - A. Psychomotor Exam Workgroup Update – Chris Kroboth
      - 1. Approval of New Psychomotor Exam Framework
  - VII. **Previous Business**
  - VIII. **New Business**
  - IX. **Public Comment**
  - X. **Quarterly Meetings**
    - A. **2020 Quarterly Meetings:**
      - 1. ~~January 15, 2020~~
      - 2. ~~April 1, 2020~~ – Cancelled due to COVID-19
      - 3. ~~July 1, 2020~~ – Cancelled due to COVID-19
      - 4. ~~October 7, 2020~~ – Cancelled due to COVID-19
    - B. **2021 Quarterly Meetings**
      - 1. ~~January 6, 2021~~ – Cancelled due to COVID-19
      - 2. April 7, 2021
      - 3. July 7, 2021
      - 4. October 6, 2021
  - XI. **Adjourn**

DRAFT

## **Attachment A**

# **National Registry Statistics**

# EMT Statistics

## As of 04/02/2021

### Virginia:

**Report Date:** 4/2/2021 10:45:58 AM  
**Report Type:** State Report (VA)  
**Registration Level:** EMT  
**Course Completion Date:** 2nd Quarter 2018 to 2nd Quarter 2021  
**Training Program:** All

[View Legend](#) | [Printer-Friendly Version](#)

[Show All](#) | [Show Only Percentages](#) | [Show Only Numbers](#)

The results of your report request are as follows:

| Attempted The Exam | First Attempt Pass | Cumulative Pass Within 3 Attempts | Cumulative Pass Within 6 Attempts | Failed All 6 Attempts | Eligible For Retest | Did Not Complete Within 2 Years |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8559               | 71%<br>(6050)      | 80%<br>(6847)                     | 80%<br>(6889)                     | 0%<br>(4)             | 15%<br>(1310)       | 4%<br>(358)                     |

### National Registry Statistics:

**Report Date:** 4/2/2021 10:43:34 AM  
**Report Type:** National Report  
**Registration Level:** EMT  
**Course Completion Date:** 2nd Quarter 2018 to 2nd Quarter 2021  
**Training Program:** All

[View Legend](#) | [Printer-Friendly Version](#)

[Show All](#) | [Show Only Percentages](#) | [Show Only Numbers](#)

The results of your report request are as follows:

| Attempted The Exam | First Attempt Pass | Cumulative Pass Within 3 Attempts | Cumulative Pass Within 6 Attempts | Failed All 6 Attempts | Eligible For Retest | Did Not Complete Within 2 Years |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 230553             | 68%<br>(157628)    | 80%<br>(183603)                   | 80%<br>(185397)                   | 0%<br>(266)           | 16%<br>(36597)      | 4%<br>(8366)                    |

Individual Instructor Statistics are available on the OEMS webpage at the following link: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/program-rankings-based-on-16th-percentile-peer-to-peer-benchmarking/>

**Attachment B**

**Accreditation Report**

# **Accredited Training Site Directory**

As of March 31, 2021



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**Accredited Paramedic Training Programs in the Commonwealth**

| <b>Site Name</b>  | <b>Site Number</b> | <b>BLS Accredited</b> | <b># of Alternate Sites</b> | <b>Accreditation Status</b> | <b>Expiration Date</b> |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Blue Ridge Community College</i>                       | 79005              | Yes**                 | --                          | CoAEMSP - LOR               |                        |
| <i>Central Virginia Community College</i>                 | 68006              | Yes*                  | --                          | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>ECPI University</i>                                    | 70017              | Yes*                  | --                          | National – Initial          | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Henrico County Division of Fire</i>                    | 08718              | Yes*                  | --                          | CoAEMSP – LOR               |                        |
| <i>J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College</i>             | 08709              | No                    | 1                           | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>John Tyler Community College</i>                       | 04115              | Yes*                  | --                          | National - Initial          | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Lord Fairfax Community College</i>                     | 06903              | Yes**                 | --                          | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Loudoun County Fire &amp; Rescue</i>                   | 10704              | Yes*                  | --                          | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Northern Virginia Community College</i>                | 05906              | Yes*                  | --                          | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Patrick Henry Community College</i>                    | 08908              | No                    | --                          | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Piedmont Virginia Community College</i>                | 54006              | Yes                   | 1                           | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Prince William County Dept. of Fire and Rescue</i>     | 15312              | Yes*                  | --                          | CoAEMSP – Initial           | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Radford University Carilion</i>                        | 77007              | Yes*                  | --                          | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Rappahannock Community College</i>                     | 11903              | Yes                   | --                          | CoAEMSP – Initial           | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Southside Virginia Community College</i>               | 18507              | Yes**                 | --                          | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Southwest Virginia Community College</i>               | 11709              | Yes*                  | 4                           | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Stafford County &amp; Associates in Emergency Care</i> | 15319              | Yes*                  | 6                           | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>Thomas Nelson Community College</i>                    | 83012              | Yes*                  | 1                           | CoAEMSP – LOR               |                        |
| <i>Tidewater Community College</i>                        | 81016              | Yes*                  | --                          | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |
| <i>VCU School of Medicine Paramedic Program</i>           | 76011              | Yes                   | 1                           | National – Continuing       | CoAEMSP                |

Programs accredited at the Paramedic level may also offer instruction at AEMT, EMT, and EMR, as well as teach continuing education and auxiliary courses.

- Thomas Nelson Community College under Letter of Review to conduct their first cohort class.
- Blue Ridge Community College under Letter of Review to conduct their first cohort class.
- Henrico County Division of Fire under Letter of Review to conduct their first cohort class.

**\* Indicates program has been approved for in-house psychomotor competency verification.**

**Accredited AEMT Training Programs in the Commonwealth**

| <b>Site Name</b>                                     | <b>Site Number</b> | <b>BLS Accredited</b> | <b># of Alternate Sites</b> | <b>Accreditation Status</b> | <b>Expiration Date</b> |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Accomack County Dept. of Public Safety</i>        | 00121              | No                    | --                          | State – LOR                 | August 31, 2021        |
| <i>Danville Area Training Center</i>                 | 69009              | No                    | --                          | State – Full                | December 31, 2021      |
| <i>Fauquier County Fire &amp; Rescue – Warrenton</i> | 06125              | Yes                   | --                          | State – LOR                 | June 30, 2021          |
| <i>Frederick County Fire &amp; Rescue</i>            | 06906              | Yes*                  | --                          | State – Full                | July 31, 2021          |
| <i>Hampton Fire &amp; EMS</i>                        | 83002              | No                    | --                          | State – Full                | December 31, 2021      |
| <i>Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy (HRREMSA)</i>  | 74039              | Yes                   | --                          | State – LOR                 | August 31, 2021        |
| <i>James City County Fire Rescue</i>                 | 83002              | Yes                   | --                          | State – Full                | December 31, 2021      |
| <i>Newport News Fire Training</i>                    | 70007              | No                    | --                          | State – LOR                 | June 30, 2021          |
| <i>Norfolk Fire and Rescue</i>                       | 71008              | Yes *                 | --                          | State – Full                | July 31, 2021          |
| <i>Paul D. Camp Community College</i>                | 62003              | Yes                   | --                          | State – Full                | May 31, 2021           |
| <i>Rockingham County Fire and Rescue</i>             | 16536              | No                    | --                          | State – LOR                 | November 1, 2021       |
| <i>Southwest Virginia EMS Council</i>                | 52003              | Yes*                  | --                          | State – Full                | December 31, 2021      |
| <i>UVA Prehospital Program</i>                       | 54008              | No                    | --                          | State – Full                | December 31, 2021      |
| <i>WVEMS – New River Valley Training Center</i>      | 75004              | No                    | --                          | State – Full                | June 30, 2022          |

\* Indicates program has been approved for in-house psychomotor competency verification.

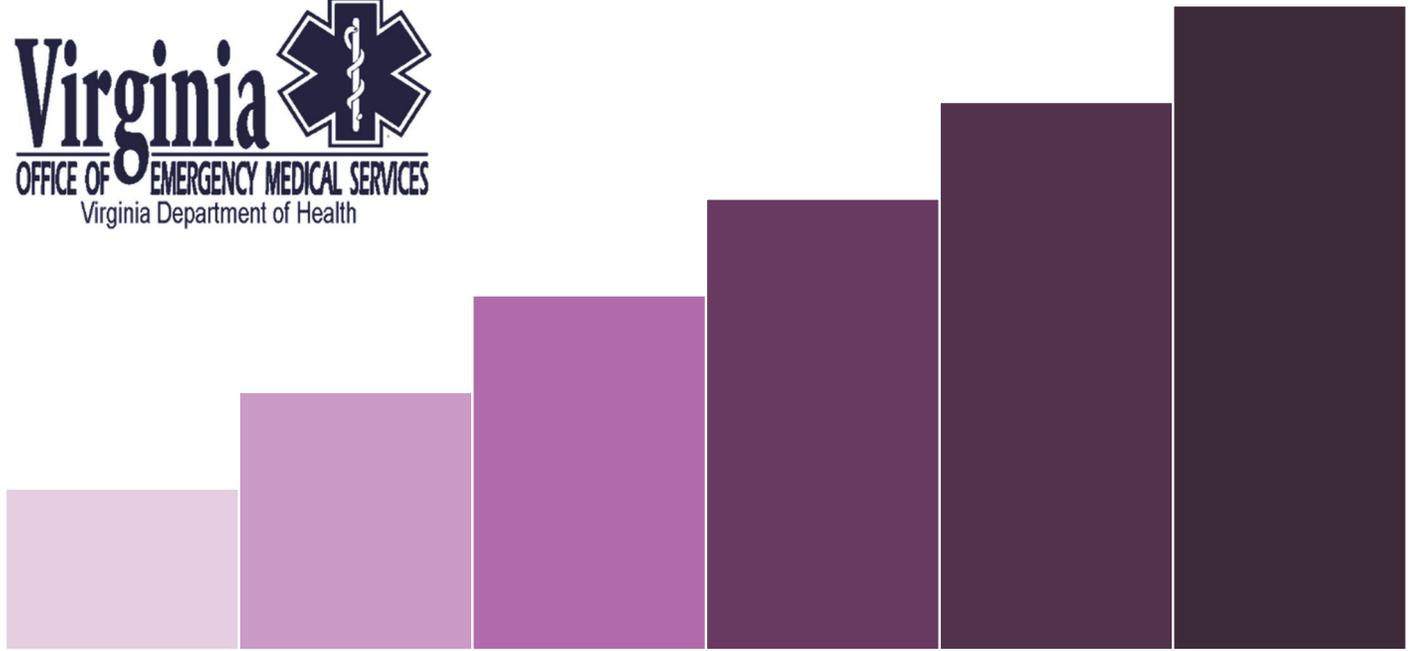
**Accredited EMT Training Programs in the Commonwealth**

| <b>Site Name</b>                          | <b>Site Number</b> | <b># of Alternate Sites</b> | <b>Accreditation Status</b> | <b>Expiration Date</b> |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Arlington County Fire Training            | 01305              | -                           | State – Letter of Review    | July 31, 2021          |
| Augusta County Fire and Rescue            | 01521              | --                          | State – Letter of Review    | August 31, 2021        |
| City of Virginia Beach Fire and EMS       | 81004*             | --                          | State – Full                | July 31, 2021          |
| Chesterfield Fire & EMS                   | 04103*             | --                          | State – Full                | July 31, 2021          |
| Gloucester Volunteer Fire & Rescue        | 07302              | --                          | State – Letter of Review    | November 30, 2021      |
| Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire EMS         | 71006              | --                          | State – Full                | July 31, 2021          |
| Roanoke Valley Regional Fire/EMS Training | 77505              | --                          | State – Letter of Review    | December 31, 2021      |

\* Indicates program has been approved for in-house psychomotor competency verification.

## **Attachment C**

# **Virginia EMS Scholarship Program Report**



# Quarterly Report

## Virginia EMS Scholarship Program

Third Quarter – FY21

Accreditation, Certification & Education

## Background

The Virginia EMS Scholarship Program is managed by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services providing scholarship awards to current Virginia EMS Providers and those seeking to become EMS providers in the Commonwealth.

The scholarship program supports students who are accepted into an eligible Virginia approved initial certification program—EMR, EMT, Advanced EMT and Paramedic.

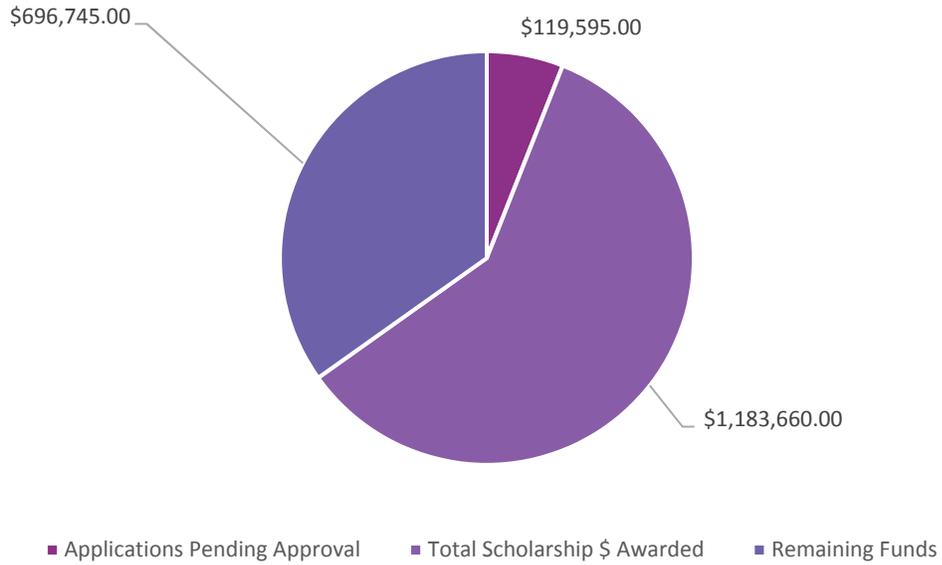
The scholarship program is not designed to provide 100% funding for a training program.

## FY21 Scholarship Budget

The FY20 budget for the Virginia EMS Scholarship Program is \$2,000,000.00. The following chart shows a breakdown of funding based on three (3) categories: 1) Applications Pending Approval, 2) Total Scholarship \$ Awarded, and Remaining Funds.

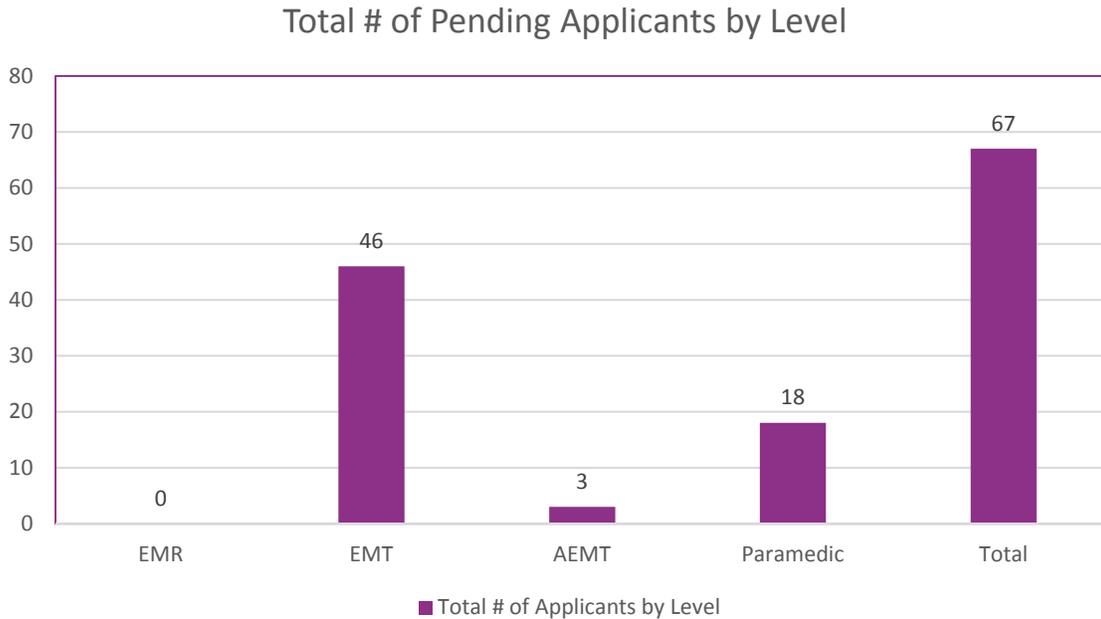
- **Application Pending Approval** – this category includes the total dollar value for all applications received from June 4, 2021 through March 31, 2020. This covers Q1, Q2, & Q3 of FY20.
- **Total Scholarship \$ Awarded** – this category is the total dollar value for all scholarship applications which have been approved and are in the process of being paid. Since the Virginia EMS Scholarship module is new, OEMS staff have only approved a small group of test applications as we work through the payment processes with the VDH Office of Financial Management.
- **Remaining Funds** – this category is the total dollar value of funds remaining in the scholarship program and available for to students for the remainder of the fiscal year.

## Scholarship Funding Overview



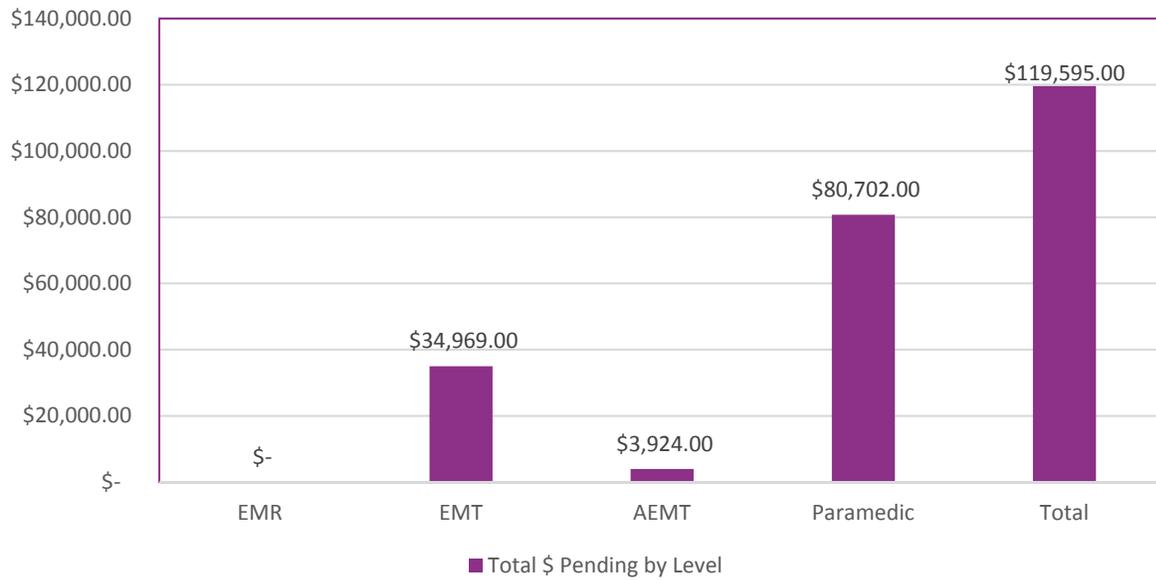
## Breakdown of Pending Applications

The following chart show of pending scholarship applications by training level. This includes all pending applications for students enrolled in eligible initial certification courses from June 4, 2020 through March 31, 2021.



The following chart show of pending scholarship applications by training level. This includes all pending applications for students enrolled in eligible initial certification courses from June 4, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

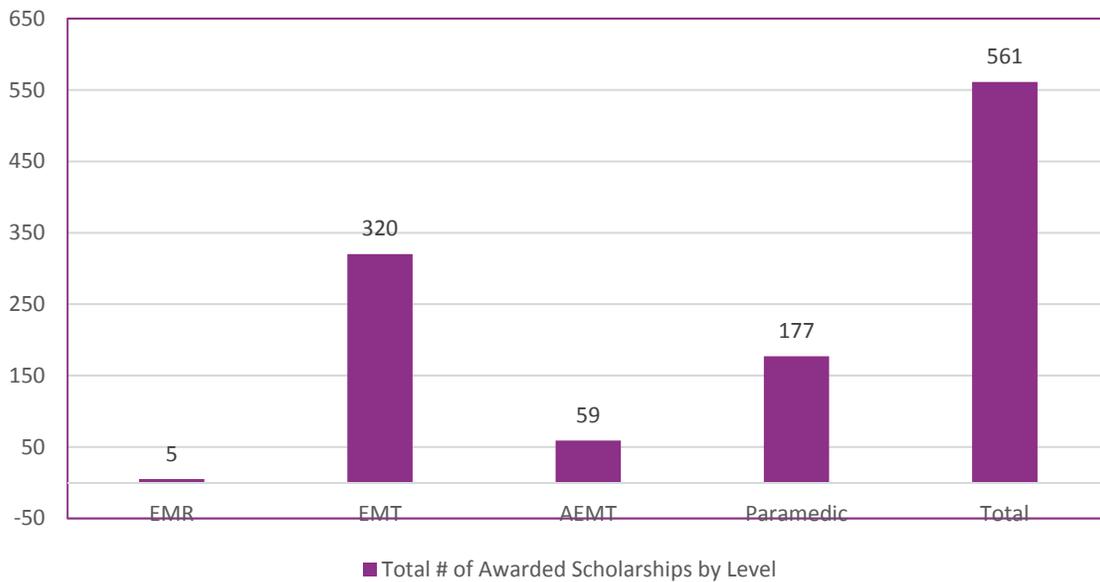
### Total \$ of Pending Applications by Level



## Breakdown of Awarded Scholarships

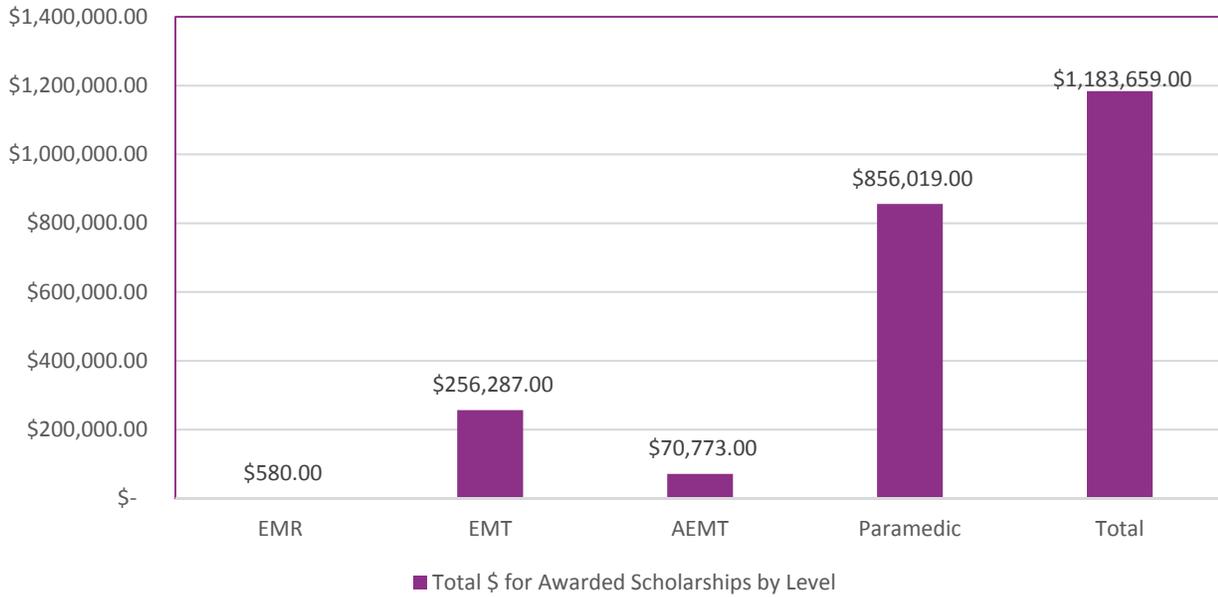
The following chart shows data for all scholarship applications which have been awarded by training level. This includes all awarded applications for students enrolled in eligible initial certification courses from June 4, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

### Total # of Awarded Scholarships by Level



The following chart shows data for all scholarship applications which have been awarded by training level. This includes all pending applications for students enrolled in eligible initial certification courses from June 4, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

Total \$ for Awarded Scholarships by Level



## **Attachment D**

# **Quarterly Division Updates During COVID-19 Pandemic**



Division of Accreditation,  
Certification & Education

Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services

# Quarterly Division Updates During COVID-19 Pandemic

# May 2020 Advisory Board Update

## Committees

- A. The Training and Certification Committee (TCC): The Training and Certification Committee meeting scheduled for April 1, 2020 was cancelled due to Executive Order 51 pertaining to COVID-19.

Copies of past minutes are available on the Office of EMS Web page here: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/training-certification-committee-standing/>.

- B. The Medical Direction Committee (MDC): The Medical Direction Committee meeting scheduled for April 2, 2020 was cancelled due to Executive Order 51 pertaining to COVID-19

Copies of past minutes are available from the Office of EMS web page at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/medical-direction-committee-standing/>

## Accreditation

- A. EMS accreditation programs.

***Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all BLS and AEMT accredited programs expiring in 2020 will be granted an extension of their accreditation status until December 31, 2021.***

1. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
  - a) Arlington County Fire Department continues under Letter of Review pending their accreditation site visit.
  - b) Fauquier County continues under Letter of Review pending their accreditation site visit.
  - c) Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy continues under Letter of Review pending their accreditation site visit.
  - d) Augusta County continues under Letter of Review pending their accreditation site visit.
  - e) Rockingham County Dept. of Fire and Rescue was issued a Letter of Review allowing their first cohort to occur.
  - f) Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue was issued a Letter of Review allowing their first cohort to occur.

- g) Roanoke Valley Regional Fire/EMS Training Center was issued a Letter of Review allowing their first cohort to occur.

2. EMT Psychomotor Competency Verification Approval

The interest in BLS accreditation continues to grow. We currently have 15 programs that are approved for internal psychomotor competency verification in adherence to the TR-90A policy. Five programs are still approved under the original BLS accreditation process and the Office will be working with them to move them to convert them to psychomotor exempt programs as well.

3. Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)

- a) Newport News Fire Training has completed their first cohort class and a site team is being assigned to visit the program and review documentation, meet with graduates of the program and consider the application for full accreditation. They had 17 candidates attempt with a first attempt pass rate of 94% (16/17) and 100% within three attempts.
- b) Fauquier County has completed their first cohort class and a site team is being assigned to visit the program and review documentation, meet with graduates of the program and consider the application for full accreditation. They had 6 candidates attempt with a first attempt pass rate of 83% (5/6).
- c) Rockbridge County has been assigned a Letter of Review to conduct their first cohort class.
- d) Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy has been assigned a Letter of Review to conduct their first cohort class.
- e) All previously accredited Intermediate programs were transitioned to the Advanced EMT level and will submit a reaccreditation packet for that level.

4. Paramedic – Initial

- a) Blue Ridge Community College has been issued their LOR from CoAEMSP and is enrolling students for their first cohort class.
- b) Thomas Nelson Community College has completed their first cohort class and has submitted their initial report to CoAEMSP.
- c) Henrico County Division of Fire has been issued a LOR from CoAEMSP and will be enrolling students for their first cohort class

## 5. Paramedic – Reaccreditation

- a) CoAEMSP has suspended all reaccreditation visits due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will resume with rescheduling when possible.
- B. For more detailed information, please view the Accredited Site Directory found on the OEMS web site at: <https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=200:1>
- C. All students must enroll in a nationally accredited paramedic program to qualify for National Registry certification. National accreditation occurs through the *Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions* (CoAEMSP – [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org)).

## Virginia COVID-19 Actions

### Expiration of Virginia EMS Provider Certifications

- Due to Executive Order 51, the Virginia Office of EMS will be extending the certification of all providers who set to expire on May 31, 2020 and have not satisfied their continuing education requirements are currently set to expire on March 31, 2020 and April 30, 2020 until June 30, 2020.
- Due to Executive Order 51 & 55, the Virginia Office of EMS will be extending the certification of all providers who are set to expire on May 31, 2020 and have not satisfied their continuing education requirements until August 31, 2020.
- EMS providers should be reminded of the plethora of online CE opportunities that are available to them. Online continuing education courses can be found at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/provider-resources/web-based-continuing-education/>

### Expiration of Operational Medical Director Endorsements

- Due to Executive Order 51, the Virginia Office of EMS will be extending the certification of all Medical Directors who are currently set to expire on March 31, April 30, May 31, and June 30, 2020 until December 31, 2020.

### Virginia Course Approval Requests

Effective immediately, you may submit your Course Approval Request (TR-01) electronically to the Office of EMS with the following stipulations:

- The form must be complete and submitted as a PDF.
- The form must contain either an original signature or an Adobe Digital signature from you as the Course Coordinator.

- The form must contain either an original signature or an Adobe Digital signature from your OMD or PCD. Rubberstamp signatures from an OMD will be rejected.

When submitting your Course Approval Request forms to the Office please ensure the following:

- E-mail them to: [emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov)
- Subject MUST read: For Tracie Jones: Course Approval Request Attached

Please DO NOT submit your Course Approval Requests directly to Tracie's e-mail account. We need to ensure that all course approvals come into an e-mail box which is accessible by multiple OEMS staff members.

If you have questions about this process, please feel free to reach out to Tracie Jones at [tracie.jones@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:tracie.jones@vdh.virginia.gov).

### **Virginia Continuing Education**

During the course of any Governor declared State of Emergency the enforcement of regulations, is to not impede, in any way affect, the necessary delivery of services. However, this declaration does not indicate a complete abandonment of the ideal of regulatory compliance; simply to relax the commonsense enforcement of regulations to allow for the needs of citizens to be met.

The Virginia Office of EMS and the National Registry have together extended certification expiration dates for all EMS providers expiring in March, April & May—both state and/or nationally certified—until June 30, 2020. Both organization continue to daily monitor our Nation's progress toward flattening the curve on COVID-19.

Based on the certification extensions granted under Governor Northam's Executive Order 51 and the wide availability of Virginia approved online CE vendors and programs, the following guidance is provided:

- The Virginia Office of EMS will not be relaxing EMS Rules and Regulations or the Training Program Administration Manual (TPAM) policies for conducting, reporting and recordation of continuing education in the Commonwealth.
- Regulations and the Training Program Administration Manual does not permit conducting continuing education online via GoToMeeting, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Capterra, TeamViewer, Cisco Webex, Skype, Google Hangouts (or any other online/web-based meeting platform) and submit CE credits to Virginia for processing.
- Education Coordinators who transition portions of initial certification programs to online content are not permitted to award CE credits for Virginia EMS providers accessing this content.
- Nationally approved continuing education programs—for example ACLS, PALS, AMLS, PHTLS, PEPP, ITLS, ECP, etc.—that have relaxed their program requirements allowing content to be completed in a modified delivery format have been temporarily approved by the National Registry for continuing education credit and therefore the Office of EMS will also temporarily allow CE to be awarded for Virginia providers completing these

- programs until the Governor’s Executive Orders 51, 53, & 55 are lifted or allowed to expire.

### **Virginia and NREMT Psychomotor Examinations**

- All psychomotor (CTS and NREMT) testing will be suspended, effective Monday, March 16 through June 10, 2020 at a minimum.
- All test deadlines will be extended in accordance with the suspended test sites.

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| <b>National Registry</b> |
|--------------------------|

*National Registry Announces Policy Changes Due to COVID-19:*

### **Psychomotor Exams & Provisional Certification**

National Registry will be cancelling all scheduled psychomotor exams by the end of this week and will not be approving any new psychomotor exams for an indefinite period.

NREMT is in the final stages of being able to issue a *provisional* National Registry certification when the following components are completed:

1. Students must complete their certification program according to state or CoAEMSP requirements.
2. Students must sit for and pass the NREMT cognitive exam.
3. When these two items are completed, a 2-year *provisional* 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. States are not required to accept provisional NREMT certifications if they cannot legally do so.

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.

### **Pearson VUE Owned Professional Test Centers (PPC’s) Closing Due to COVID-19**

On March 16, Pearson VUE notified National Registry that they were closing all Pearson Professional Center’s (PPC) in response to the rapidly developing COVID-19 situation. This decision does not affect privately run Pearson VUE Authorized Test Centers (e.g. those in Regional Councils, community college and universities) This directly impacts all National Registry examinations delivered by Pearson VUE. The National Registry was already preparing alternative pathways, in conjunction with partners, to ensure the continuity of certification and support the national EMS system during this crisis.

These are unprecedented times. NREMT, as the Nation's EMS Certification organization, recognizes the thousands of providers on the path to EMS service. NREMT is finalizing potential solutions and will be sharing additional details in the coming days. We remain committed to supporting the vital work that you do.

Currently, National Registry has been working with Pearson VUE on the following interim solutions:

1. Pearson VUE has opened some PPC's for the health professions ONLY (e.g. EMS and Nursing). Not all existing PPC's will open, maybe just one or two per state.
2. NREMT in the final stages of implementing remote proctoring of NREMT certification exams for EMR, EMT and AEMT test candidates. Remote proctoring through Pearson OnVUE will be a psychometrically sound and legally defensible means of delivering the test in other environments rather than a Pearson Vue Testing Center.
  - a. The only testing candidates required to take their cognitive exam at a Pearson VUE Test Center will be paramedic candidates.
  - b. More information on Pearson OnVUE can be found at:
    - a) <https://youtu.be/Gm1PqdbwBP0>
    - b) <https://youtu.be/h-0E9jGEOOnA>
    - c) <https://youtu.be/MlQr9Meee0I>

## Education Program

### Education Coordinator Certification Extensions

- Due to Executive Order 51 & 55, the Virginia Office of EMS will be extending the expiration dates for Education Coordinators with an expiration date of March 31, 2020, April 30, 2020, May 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020 until December 31, 2020.
- The Education Coordinator Update schedule can be found online at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-educator-update-schedule/>

### Education Coordinator Candidate Program

The Eligibility deadline for the next Education Coordinator Institute has been modified as follows:

- The deadline for EC Candidates to have completed all requirements in order to be considered eligible for this institute is May 24, 2020.
- Invitations will be sent to eligible candidates via e-mail on the morning of May 29, 2020.\*\*

- More information can be found at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-education-coordinator-requirements/>

\*\*Dates changed due to COVID-19 State of Emergency.

### Education Coordinator Candidate (Mentee) “Teaching Hours”

Based on action the Office took to extend the certification request expiration date for Education Coordinator Candidates (ECC) under Governor Northam’s Executive Order 51, the Virginia Office of EMS has determined that there is not a present need to relax regulatory requirements for the ECC program.

- All ECC required “teaching hours” must be taught in a face-to-face environment and an Education Coordinator above the 16th percentile must be present during the delivery of all content by the candidate.

## EMS Training Funds

| <b>Table. 1 – Virginia EMS Scholarship Program – FY20 (Q1 through Q3)</b> |                    |                       |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certification Level</b>  | <b>No. Awarded</b> | <b>Amount Awarded</b> |
| EMR   | 1                  | \$148.00              |
| EMT   | 299                | \$185,440.00          |
| AEMT  | 44                 | \$49,180.00           |
| Paramedic   | 226                | \$812,472.00          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>570</b>         | <b>\$1,047,240.00</b> |

The FY20 Virginia EMS Scholarship Program will close on May 31, 2020 due to the need to begin the internal processes to close FY20. The FY21 fiscal year for the scholarship program will begin June 1, 2020. These changes should be seamless to the end user of the program.

## Psychomotor Test Site Activity

- A. BLS Psychomotor Testing will be suspended for the duration of 2020 and all programs will be required to follow the TR-999 form developed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This allows the program director and the physician course medical director to determine entry level competency of students. Upon completion of the program, form TR-999 will be submitted to the Virginia Office of EMS and students will have a psychomotor examination generated and submitted to the National Registry.
- B. When meetings resume, the workgroup assigned from Training and Certification will continue their work on designing a more comprehensive psychomotor examination to test entry level competency through critical thinking rather than performance of rote

memorization skills. The Office of EMS is awaiting further direction from National Registry concerning their recommended changes.

## Other Activities

### Student Background Checks through Fieldprint

When the Office negotiated its contract with Fieldprint for provider background checks, we also included an option for EMS Educational Programs to be able to conduct background checks of their student body. All Education Coordinators and accredited EMS Programs may make use of this program at their own discretion. You are not required by this Office to run FBI backgrounds on your EMS students.

If you or your Program Medical Director would like to institute mandatory FBI background checks on your students, they should use the following steps to submit their fingerprints to the FBI. We have attached a flyer for use in your program literature should you decide to implement background checks.

To schedule a fingerprinting appointment as an EMS student, please follow these simple instructions.

1. Visit <http://fieldprintvirginia.com>
2. Click on the “*Schedule an Appointment*” button.
3. Enter an email address under “*New Users/Sign Up*” and click the “*Sign Up*” button. Follow the instructions for creating a Password and Security Question and then click “*Sign Up and Continue*”.
4. Enter the Fieldprint Code **FPVS999NC** when requested.
5. Enter the contact and demographic information required by the FBI and schedule a fingerprint appointment at the location of your choosing.
6. At the end of the process, print the Confirmation Page. Take the Confirmation Page with you to your fingerprint appointment, along with two forms of identification.
7. If you have any questions or problems, contact Katie Hodges ([kathryn.hodges@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:kathryn.hodges@vdh.virginia.gov)) at the Office of EMS.

Fingerprint results will be submitted to the Office of EMS Division of Regulation and Compliance and a staff member from Regulation and Compliance will notify you as the educator via e-mail the final status of “Eligible” or “Not Eligible” for certification in Virginia.

### STAFF ACTIVITIES

- Debbie Akers is serving on the committee to rewrite the Education Standards

and Instructional Guidelines. The first draft of the proposed Education Standards has been released and a stakeholders meeting was held on October 3, 2019 in Washington, DC. The committee is now taking the comments received during the public comment phase and at the stakeholders meeting to make revisions. The second draft will be released in Spring 2020 with an anticipated effective date of August, 2020.

- Debbie Akers participated in a meeting with National Registry to discuss future collaborative work on testing, certification and research.

# August 2020 Advisory Board Update

## Committees

- A.** The Training and Certification Committee (TCC): The Training and Certification Committee meeting scheduled for July 1, 2020 was cancelled due to Executive Order 51 pertaining to COVID-19.

Copies of past minutes are available on the Office of EMS Web page here:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/training-certification-committee-standing/>.

- B.** The Medical Direction Committee (MDC): The Medical Direction Committee meeting scheduled for July 2, 2020 was cancelled due to Executive Order 51 pertaining to COVID-19.

Copies of past minutes are available from the Office of EMS web page at:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/medical-direction-committee-standing/>

## Accreditation

All EMS programs that are in need of a site visit having gained accreditation either through Letter of Review or through full accreditation have been granted an extension of expiration until December 31, 2021. No accreditation visits will be scheduled until such time as it is deemed safe due to COVID-19.

- A.** EMS accreditation program.

1. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

- a) The following EMT programs are under Letter of Review:

- (1) Arlington County Fire Department
- (2) Fauquier County
- (3) Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy
- (4) Augusta County
- (5) Rockingham County Dept. of Fire and Rescue
- (6) Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue

2. Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)

- a) The following AEMT programs are under Letter of Review:

- (1) Newport News Fire Training

- (2) Fauquier County
- (3) Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy
- (4) Augusta County
- (5) Rockingham County Dept. of Fire and Rescue

3. Paramedic – Initial

National accreditation occurs through the *Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions* (CoAEMSP – [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org)).

- a) Blue Ridge Community College has been issued their LOR from CoAEMSP and is enrolling students for their first cohort class.
- b) Thomas Nelson Community College has completed their first cohort class and are working on submission of their initial report to CoAEMSP.
- c) Henrico County Division of Fire has been issued a LOR from CoAEMSP and will be enrolling students for their first cohort class

4. Paramedic – Reaccreditation

National accreditation occurs through the *Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions* (CoAEMSP – [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org)).

- a) No current activity. CoAEMSP has suspended all reaccreditation visits due to COVID-19.

B. For more detailed information, please view the Accredited Site Directory found on the OEMS web site at:  
<https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=200:1>

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| <b>Virginia COVID-19 Actions</b> |
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**Virginia Certification Online Verification**

OEMS offers an online Virginia EMS Provider Certification Lookup which can be used to verify credentials online at the following URL:

<https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/ProviderSearch.html> All certification data on this website is real-time, up-to-date, valid and accurate.

[Certification Cards No Longer Required for EMS Agency Inspection Requirements](#)

## **Extension of Certification Expirations**

Now that we have reached a more stable “new normal”, no further extension of certifications has been granted. All providers must meet their continuing education requirements by the last day of their certification expiration month, or the provider will go into reentry per our normal regulatory requirements.

## **Continuing Education**

- 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/>

## **Certification Testing Changes – State and National Registry**

### **BLS Certification Testing**

- **Cognitive Exams** – The National Registry has implemented cognitive examination testing through the Pearson OnVUE Testing process which allows remotely proctored cognitive exams to be completed in locations such as their home provided they can meet the security requirements. This process became available on May, 12, 2020.
- Please direct candidates to learn more about Pearson OnVUE Remote Proctored Exams by visiting: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/nremt/onvue>
  - Pearson OnVUE remote proctoring will be temporary, however the National Registry is planning to implement a more permanent remote proctoring solution in 2021.
  - Once a candidate sits for and passes the National Registry Cognitive Exam, they will be issued a full National Registry and Virginia certification.
- **Psychomotor Exams** – After careful consideration, the Office of EMS Management Team has decided to cancel all further Consolidated Testing at the BLS level through December 31, 2020 due to Executive Order 51, 53 & 55. With so many unknown factors in the months ahead and the amount of advanced planning and commitment required to hold a CTS, we determined cancellation to be in the best interest of the health, safety and well-being of all participants. Students will receive guidance from their Course Coordinator as to how their psychomotor skills will be tested in lieu of Consolidated Testing.

### **ALS Certification Testing**

- Advanced EMT Programs
  - **Cognitive Exams** – The National Registry has implemented cognitive examination testing through the Pearson OnVUE Testing process which

allows remotely proctored cognitive exams to be completed in locations such as their home provided they can meet the security requirements. This process became available on May, 12, 2020. Please direct candidates to learn more about Pearson OnVUE Remote Proctored Exams by visiting: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/nremt/onvue>

- Pearson OnVUE remote proctoring will be temporary, however the National Registry is planning to implement a more permanent remote proctoring solution in 2021.
- Once a candidate sits for and passes the National Registry Cognitive Exam, they will be issued a provisional National Registry and provisional Virginia certification.
- The candidate will have to complete and pass their National Registry psychomotor exam before full National Registry and Virginia certification will be issued.
- 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.
- Psychomotor Exams – The Office is working with ALS programs and the National Registry and started conducting ALS psychomotor testing on June 15, 2020 with the appropriate measures in place to meet the requirements of social distancing, temperature checks, wearing of masks and use of manikins in lieu of patients. The ALS Testing Calendar can be found on the OEMS website at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/virginia-national-registry-psychomotor-examination-schedule/>
- Paramedic Programs
  - Cognitive Exams – The National Registry is collaboration with Pearson VUE have increased the availability of Test Centers to reopen as quickly as possible. Paramedic candidates are required to take their cognitive exam at a Pearson VUE Test Centers—remote proctoring via Pearson OnVUE is not permitted for paramedic candidates.
    - Once a candidate sits for and passes the National Registry Cognitive Exam, they will be issued a provisional National Registry and provisional Virginia certification.
    - The candidate will have to complete and pass their National Registry psychomotor exam before full National Registry and Virginia certification will be issued.
    - 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.
  - Psychomotor Exams – The Office is working with ALS programs and the National Registry and started conducting ALS psychomotor testing on June 15, 2020 with the appropriate measures in place to meet the requirements of social distancing, temperature checks, wearing of masks

and use of manikins in lieu of patients. The ALS Testing Calendar can be found on the OEMS website at:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/virginia-national-registry-psychomotor-examination-schedule/>

## Virginia Course Approval Requests

Course Approval Requests (TR-01) are now being submitted electronically to the Office of EMS with the following stipulations:

- The form must be complete and submitted as a PDF.
- The form must contain either an original signature or an Adobe Digital signature from you as the Course Coordinator.
- The form must contain either an original signature or an Adobe Digital signature from your OMD or PCD. Rubberstamp signatures from an OMD will be rejected.

When submitting your Course Approval Request forms to the Office please ensure the following:

- **E-mail them to:** [emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov)
- **Subject MUST read:** For Tracie Jones: Course Approval Request Attached

Please DO NOT submit your Course Approval Requests directly to Tracie's e-mail account. We need to ensure that all course approvals come into an e-mail box which is accessible by multiple OEMS staff members.

If you have questions about this process, please feel free to reach out to Tracie Jones at [tracie.jones@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:tracie.jones@vdh.virginia.gov).

## National Registry

### National Registry

- **National Registry & Virginia Provisional Certifications – (Advanced EMT and Paramedic ONLY!)**
  - National Registry & Virginia have restarted the process of scheduling NREMT psychomotor exams.
  - For those who were not able to take their NREMT psychomotor exam due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 provisional National Registry certification will be issued with an expiration date of December 31, 2021. 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 has begun accepting and likewise issuing provisional certification cards when the National Registry transmits these results to us. Please see the [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.

### **National Registry Cognitive Examinations**

- NREMT currently offers two different options for taking the cognitive exams: face-to-face exams at a Pearson VUE Testing Center and remotely proctored exams making use of Pearson OnVUE.
  - Candidates, when applying for their cognitive exam have the opportunity to select whether they would like to take their exam face-to-face exams at a Pearson VUE Testing Center or a remotely proctored exam on Pearson OnVUE.
    - [Sample face-to-face exam ATT Letter](#)
    - [Sample Pearson OnVUE ATT Letter](#).
  - *If a candidate decides to change their method of testing from face-to-face to Pearson OnVUE or vice versa, they can do so, however the issuance of a new ATT letter will take at least 24 hours to generate before they can then schedule the examination through the process they have chosen.*
    - [Click here for screenshots](#) of how to change your testing method from face-to-face testing to Pearson OnVUE.

## National Registry Releases New Certification Schemes

The National Registry’s Board of Directors voted to bring consistency and uniformity to certification schemes, as well as aligning all National Registry levels with the current National EMS Scope of Practice Model. The new policy also addresses the need for a pathway for reentry for AEMTs.

“These certification schemes were passed to clearly communicate requirements for certification in a single policy,” said Mark Terry, Chief Certification Officer. “Additionally, the new policy aligns each level with the National EMS Scope of Practice Model and the National Registry’s Practice Analysis, which identified necessary knowledge, skills and abilities for the profession.” The policy, with the new certification schemes, goes into effect on July 9, 2020. Please see the following links to view the in-depth policies for each National Registry Certification Level

- [EMT Certification Level](#)
- [AEMT Certification Level](#)
- [Paramedic Certification Level](#)

|                   |
|-------------------|
| Education Program |
|-------------------|

### Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT)

After several months of work and consult with multiple medical directors, EMS educators, and OEMS staff, the Office of EMS is pleased to announce that the Commonwealth will now recognize a new training modality—Virtual Instructor-Led Training—for Category 1 continuing education hours.

VILT technology is based on comprehensive and scalable collaboration software that features functionality, availability and ease of use. A full range of engagement tools typically includes live conversation, chat, polls and quizzes, all controlled and monitored by facilitators. This environment also incorporates tools for webinars, remote labs and video conference.

Educators were provided with a document—*Delivering High-Quality Instruction Online (VILT)*. This document was been developed to provide them with information needed to begin to offer Virtual Instructor-Led Training for continuing education of EMS providers in the Commonwealth.

### EMS Virtual Education Center

The Office of EMS is pleased to announce that we are now offering Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) to EMS providers across the Commonwealth. These OEMS programs are designed and offered by our [cadre of regional educators](#)—and are customized to meet the needs of Virginia providers. This new training modality affords Virginia EMS providers the

educational content they are seeking from the comfort of their home, office or while on vacation in Vanuatu.

Virtual Instructor-Led Training, or VILT, is an online classroom where the student and instructor are in different locations and communicate entirely through the cloud. Through this simulated learning experience, students have the benefit of a hands-on learning experience that improves knowledge retention.

We encourage you to share this information with your providers so they are aware of this new opportunity. More information on VILT and registration links can be found at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/provider-resources/virtual-instructor-led-training/>

Currently, we are featuring a **2020 Infection Control Update** course which has 11 different course dates/timeslots scheduled through September. The next scheduled **2020 Infection Control Update** class is tomorrow morning from 9:00A to 10:30A. We will be adding more course in the very near future.

### **Education Coordinator and ALS Coordinator Certification Extensions**

- Due to Executive Order 51 & 55, the Virginia Office of EMS will be extending the expiration dates for Education Coordinators and ALS Coordinators with an expiration date of May 31, 2020 through December 31, 2020 until June 30, 2021.
- The Education Coordinator Update schedule can be found online at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-educator-update-schedule/>

### **Education Coordinator Candidate Program**

The July 2020 Education Coordinator Institute scheduled to be held this July in Roanoke, Virginia was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health, safety and well-being of all participants is of the utmost importance.

Please continue to monitor the Virginia Office of EMS website and social media channels for updates on system wide changes at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/coronavirus-2019-covid-19/>

The Office is hopeful that we will be able to conduct the fall Education Coordinator Institute in late September:

- The deadline for EC Candidates to have completed all requirements in order to be considered eligible for this institute is August 14, 2020.
- Invitations will be sent to eligible candidates via e-mail on the morning of August 17, 2020.
- More information can be found at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-education-coordinator-requirements/>

## Education Coordinator Candidate (Mentee) “Teaching Hours”

Based on the current COVID-19 situation which has impacted the way EMS education is delivered, the Office will temporarily allow mentee “teaching hours” to be taught online or in a traditional classroom so long as an Education Coordinator above the 16th percentile is present during the delivery of all content by the candidate.

## Education Coordinator Updates

The ACE Division is in the process of verifying seating capacity and the ability of our host sites to accept “outside guests” at each of the remaining scheduled EC Update sites for 2020. Presently, it is our intent to get back on the road again now that the Office of EMS has received permission for a limited re-opening of services which require in-state travel.

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.

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/>

**PLEASE NOTE: EC Updates are subject to cancellation up to 24 hours before the event is scheduled to take place depending on guidance our Office receives from the Office of the Governor, VDH or the hosting site.**

### EMS Training Funds

| <b>Table. 1 – Virginia EMS Scholarship Program – FY20 (Q1 through Q4)</b> |                    |                       |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Certification Level</b>  | <b>No. Awarded</b> | <b>Amount Awarded</b> |
| EMR   | 1                  | \$148.00              |
| EMT   | 338                | \$213,718.00          |
| AEMT  | 44                 | \$49,180.00           |
| Paramedic   | 228                | \$820,061.00          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>611</b>         | <b>\$1,083,107.00</b> |

The FY20 Virginia EMS Scholarship Program will closed on June 5, 2020 due to the need to begin the internal processes to close FY20. The FY21 fiscal year for the scholarship program began June 6, 2020.

## Psychomotor Test Site Activity

- A. BLS Psychomotor Testing has been suspended for the remainder of 2020. A workgroup of the Training and Certification Committee will continue their work, when safe to do so, on changes to the BLS testing through a more comprehensive critical thinking scenario based evaluation rather than the memorization of skill sheets.

## Other Activities

- Debbie Akers is serving on the committee to rewrite the Education Standards and Instructional Guidelines. The completion of this project has been delayed and the anticipated release date of the new Education Standards will be March, 2021.
- Debbie Akers has been selected to serve on a workgroup who will be looking at Competency Based Education with the National Registry.

# November 2020 Advisory Board Update

## Committees

- A.** The Training and Certification Committee (TCC): The Training and Certification Committee meeting scheduled for October 8, 2020 was cancelled due to Executive Order 51 pertaining to COVID-19.

Copies of past minutes are available on the Office of EMS Web page here:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/training-certification-committee-standing/>.

- B.** The Medical Direction Committee (MDC): The Medical Direction Committee meeting scheduled for October 7, 2020 was cancelled due to Executive Order 51 pertaining to COVID-19.

Copies of past minutes are available from the Office of EMS web page at:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/medical-direction-committee-standing/>

## Accreditation

All EMS programs that are in need of a site visit having gained accreditation either through Letter of Review or through full accreditation have been granted an extension of expiration until December 31, 2021. No accreditation visits will be scheduled until such time as it is deemed safe due to COVID-19.

- A.** EMS accreditation program.

1. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

- a) The following EMT programs are under Letter of Review:

1. Arlington County Fire Department
2. Fauquier County
3. Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy
4. Augusta County
5. Rockingham County Dept. of Fire and Rescue
6. Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue
7. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue

2. Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)

- a) The following AEMT programs are under Letter of Review:

1. Newport News Fire Training
2. Fauquier County
3. Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy
4. Augusta County
5. Rockingham County Dept. of Fire and Rescue

3. Paramedic – Initial

National accreditation occurs through the *Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions* (CoAEMSP – [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org)).

- a) Blue Ridge Community College has been issued their LOR from CoAEMSP and is enrolling students for their first cohort class.
- b) Thomas Nelson Community College has completed their first cohort class and are working on submission of their initial report to CoAEMSP.
- c) Henrico County Division of Fire has been issued a LOR from CoAEMSP and will be enrolling students for their first cohort class

4. Paramedic – Reaccreditation

National accreditation occurs through the *Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions* (CoAEMSP – [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org)).

- a) No current activity. CoAEMSP has suspended all reaccreditation visits due to COVID-19.

B. For more detailed information, please view the Accredited Site Directory found on the OEMS web site at:

<https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=200:1>

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>Virginia COVID-19 Actions</b> |
|----------------------------------|

**Virginia Certification Online Verification**

OEMS offers an online Virginia EMS Provider Certification Lookup which can be used to verify credentials online at the following URL:

<https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/ProviderSearch.html> All certification data on this website is real-time, up-to-date, valid and accurate.

## Certification Cards No Longer Required for EMS Agency Inspection Requirements

### **Extension of Certification Expirations**

No further extension of certifications has been granted or are anticipated at this time. All providers must meet their continuing education requirements by the last day of their certification expiration month, or the provider will go into reentry per our normal regulatory requirements.

### **Continuing Education**

- 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/>

### **TPAM Policy T-1445 – Course Scheduling**

As a reminder, in the May 2020 update to the Training Program Administration Manual, we made it possible for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to be a pre or co-requisite for initial certification programs. If CPR is offered as a co-requisite, the student must obtain a valid CPR card by the end date of the course as announced to the Office. Failure to obtain CPR by the end date of the course or marking a student as “Pass” for the course without a valid CPR card is not permitted and will be considered a violation of this policy.

### **Field and Clinical Requirements for EMT and Advanced EMT Programs (T-1445)**

State and regional Medical Directors have reiterated, as late as August 12, 2020, the importance of students in initial certification programs successfully completing and meeting all field and clinical requirements as specified for all certification programs. Educators and Program Directors conducting initial certification programs during COVID-19 are expected to seek out all possibilities to ensure students are able to meet all field and clinical requirements until at least June 30, 2021. If an educator or Program Director has exhausted all possibilities for field and clinical sites for their students and they are unable to secure sites due to COVID-19 limitations or restrictions, then the educator or Program Director shall:

1. Secure an attestation statement from each site indicating that they will not allow access to their facility for your students due to COVID-19 limitations or restrictions.
  - a. The attestation statement must include signatures (physical or electronic) from the educator, the field or clinical site representative and the program Medical Director.
  - b. A sample attestation statement is attached.
2. Once attestation statements have been received for all sites, the educator or Program Director can then allow field and/or clinical competencies to be conducted with the students using programmed patients and/or advanced simulation scenarios until you are comfortable that the student is satisfactorily competent.
  - a. Field and/or clinical competency stations should limit the number of people in contact with one another in compliance with social distancing guidelines.

- b. Screening of all students and staff is required before ANY in-person meetings with them using form TR-900 – Student Screening Log. Maintain the screening log along with TR-06 – Course Roster.
  - c. Maintain social distancing requirements of six (6) feet of separation to the best of your ability.
  - d. ANY face-to-face field and/or clinical competency stations sessions that require being less than six (6) feet apart shall use adequate PPE to ensure all involved are protected to the highest degree possible.
3. Attestation statements are required to be maintained by the educator with their course files.

## **Certification Testing Changes – State and National Registry**

### **BLS Certification Testing**

- Cognitive Exams – The National Registry has implemented cognitive examination testing through the Pearson OnVUE Testing process which allows remotely proctored cognitive exams to be completed in locations such as their home provided they can meet the security requirements. This process became available on May, 12, 2020.
- Please direct candidates to learn more about Pearson OnVUE Remote Proctored Exams by visiting: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/nremt/onvue>
  - Pearson OnVUE remote proctoring will be temporary, however the National Registry is planning to implement a more permanent remote proctoring solution in 2021.
  - Once a candidate sits for and passes the National Registry Cognitive Exam, they will be issued a full National Registry and Virginia certification.
- Psychomotor Exams – After careful consideration, the Office of EMS Management Team has decided to cancel all further Consolidated Testing at the BLS level through June 30, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With so many unknown factors in the months ahead and the amount of advanced planning and commitment required to hold a CTS, we determined cancellation to be in the best interest of the health, safety and well-being of all participants. Students will receive guidance from their Course Coordinator as to how their psychomotor skills will be tested in lieu of Consolidated Testing.

### **ALS Certification Testing**

- Advanced EMT Programs
  - Cognitive Exams – The National Registry has implemented cognitive examination testing through the Pearson OnVUE Testing process which allows remotely proctored cognitive exams to be completed in locations such as their home provided they can meet the security requirements. This process became available on May, 12, 2020. Please direct candidates to

learn more about Pearson OnVUE Remote Proctored Exams by visiting: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/nremt/onvue>

- Pearson OnVUE remote proctoring will be temporary, however the National Registry is planning to implement a more permanent remote proctoring solution in 2021.
- Once a candidate sits for and passes the National Registry Cognitive Exam, they will be issued a provisional National Registry and provisional Virginia certification.
- The candidate will have to complete and pass their National Registry psychomotor exam before full National Registry and Virginia certification will be issued.
- 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.
- Psychomotor Exams – The Office is working with ALS programs and the National Registry and started conducting ALS psychomotor testing on June 15, 2020 with the appropriate measures in place to meet the requirements of social distancing, temperature checks, wearing of masks and use of manikins in lieu of patients. The ALS Testing Calendar can be found on the OEMS website at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/virginia-national-registry-psychomotor-examination-schedule/>
- Paramedic Programs
  - Cognitive Exams – The National Registry is collaboration with Pearson VUE have increased the availability of Test Centers to reopen as quickly as possible. Paramedic candidates are required to take their cognitive exam at a Pearson VUE Test Centers—remote proctoring via Pearson OnVUE is not permitted for paramedic candidates.
    - Once a candidate sits for and passes the National Registry Cognitive Exam, they will be issued a provisional National Registry and provisional Virginia certification.
    - The candidate will have to complete and pass their National Registry psychomotor exam before full National Registry and Virginia certification will be issued.
    - 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.
  - Psychomotor Exams – The Office is working with ALS programs and the National Registry and started conducting ALS psychomotor testing on June 15, 2020 with the appropriate measures in place to meet the requirements of social distancing, temperature checks, wearing of masks and use of manikins in lieu of patients. The ALS Testing Calendar can be found on the OEMS website at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/virginia-national-registry-psychomotor-examination-schedule/>

## National Registry

### National Registry

- **National Registry & Virginia Provisional Certifications – (Advanced EMT and Paramedic ONLY!)**
  - National Registry will cease issuing provisional certifications on December 31, 2020.
  - National Registry & Virginia have restarted the process of scheduling NREMT psychomotor exams.
  - For those who were not able to take their NREMT psychomotor exam due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 provisional National Registry certification will be issued with an expiration date of December 31, 2021. 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 has begun accepting and likewise issuing provisional certifications cards when the National Registry transmits these results to us. Please see the [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.

## National Registry Cognitive Examinations

- NREMT currently offers two different options for taking the cognitive exams: face-to-face exams at a Pearson VUE Testing Center and remotely proctored exams making use of Pearson OnVUE.
  - Candidates, when applying for their cognitive exam have the opportunity to select whether they would like to take their exam face-to-face exams at a Pearson VUE Testing Center or a remotely proctored exam on Pearson OnVUE.
    - [Sample face-to-face exam ATT Letter](#)
    - [Sample Pearson OnVUE ATT Letter](#).
  - *If a candidate decides to change their method of testing from face-to-face to Pearson OnVUE or vice versa, they can do so, however the issuance of a new ATT letter will take at least 24 hours to generate before they can then schedule the examination through the process they have chosen.*
    - [Click here for screenshots](#) of how to change your testing method from face-to-face testing to Pearson OnVUE.

## National Registry Releases New Certification Schemes

The National Registry’s Board of Directors voted to bring consistency and uniformity to certification schemes, as well as aligning all National Registry levels with the current National EMS Scope of Practice Model. The new policy also addresses the need for a pathway for reentry for AEMTs.

“These certification schemes were passed to clearly communicate requirements for certification in a single policy,” said Mark Terry, Chief Certification Officer. “Additionally, the new policy aligns each level with the National EMS Scope of Practice Model and the National Registry’s Practice Analysis, which identified necessary knowledge, skills and abilities for the profession.” The policy, with the new certification schemes, goes into effect on July 9, 2020. Please see the following links to view the in-depth policies for each National Registry Certification Level

- [EMT Certification Level](#)
- [AEMT Certification Level](#)
- [Paramedic Certification Level](#)

## National Registry Recert 2.0

On October 22, 2020 the Office published 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.

- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/provider-resources/recertifying-your-virginia-ems-credential/>

## General Updates

### Virginia Course Approval Requests

Another long promised enhancement to the Virginia EMS Portal is finally here. Today we are introducing online submission of EMS Course Requests through the Virginia EMS Portal. Beginning Tuesday, October 27, 2020, the Office of EMS no longer accepts electronic or paper submissions of form TR-01 – Course Approval Request. Any paper or electronic forms received from October 27, 2020 forward will be returned to the Education Coordinator / ALS-Coordinator and they will be asked to login to the Virginia EMS Portal to complete their submissions.

The Course Request feature is fully integrated into the Virginia EMS Portal and involves several approval flows/queues for your courses. At any step in the process, it is possible for your EMS Physician or the Office of EMS to deny a course request. You will be notified of the decision of your EMS Physician and/or the Office of EMS via e-mail messages from the EMS Portal.

For most courses, you will need only select the course type and fill in the requisite details and click submit for approval. However, there are occasions when you must submit an attachment as a part of your course approval:

1. All Auxiliary Courses will require that you submit a digital copy of your instructor certification from the parent organization for that program. You will not be able to complete the submission process without an attachment. Attachments can be in the form of: PDF, DOCX, JPG, PNG, TIF.
2. All “custom CE” courses will require that you submit form [TR-19 - Custom CE Program Outline](#) (attached). You will not be able to complete the submission process without an attachment.
3. All “VILT” courses will require that you submit form [TR-18 - VILT Program Course Schedule and Registration](#) (attached). You will not be able to complete the submission process without an attachment.

Please see the online training for this new module on the following page **BEFORE** you attempt to complete and submit a course approval the first time.

- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/virginia-ems-portal-training-videos/>

### Digital Certification Cards

The Office of EMS introduce digital certification cards to EMS providers, EMS Physicians and EMS Agency Leadership in late October.

Digital certificates make keeping your certification with you easier than ever. The certificates are easy to pull up from a cell phone or computer. Digital certificates also make it a snap for an employer or organization to check and verify your certification levels.

Accessing a digital version of your certification card is as easy as logging into the Virginia EMS Portal. A fact sheet on digital certification cards is attached to this message. Providers can now download their certification card directly to their devices and keep it with them in digital format wherever they go!

#### Why transition to digital certification?

1. EMS providers lose their certification cards, frequently. With digital certification cards providers never have to worry about replacement cards because providers will always have access to the digital certification for the duration of their certification period.
2. Saving taxpayer money! Certification card stock, the cost of envelopes and postage, manpower to print, fold and stuff cards all cost money! Money which could be better spent on new technology resources, increased funding for the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund, and other benefits to the EMS system as a whole.
3. Instead of faxing or mailing copies of your certification card to your employer or anyone requesting proof of your training, just e-mail them your Virginia EMS Certification card. It's fast and easy!
4. Be on the cutting edge and go green! Save our valuable natural resources whenever possible.

#### Concerned about Safety and Security?

Verify any Virginia EMS certification quickly on the Office of EMS website. This website allows for a search by a certificate number, first and last name and/or agency. If you are an employer and your employee has given you his or her Virginia EMS certification, or even just the certification number, you can use it to search for the certificate to validate that it's valid as well as see when it expires.

This tool makes compliance and HR record keeping a breeze. Just go to the Virginia Office of EMS Digital Certification Verification web page and search for the certificate number you are trying to verify.

- <https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=200:3>

Once you've had a digital certification card, you'll have a hard time going back to "the way we used to do it."

Please see the online training for this new module for how to access digital certification cards.

- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/virginia-ems-portal-training-videos/>

## 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/>

## 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.

## Education Program

### Education Coordinator and ALS Coordinator Certification Extensions

- Due to Executive Order 51 et seq., the Virginia Office of EMS will be extending the expiration dates for Education Coordinators and ALS Coordinators with an expiration date of June 30, 2021 through December 31, 2021 until June 30, 2022.
- The Education Coordinator Update schedule can be found online at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-educator-update-schedule/>

## Education Coordinator Candidate Program

The Office was able to hold a socially distant Education Coordinator Institute at the end of September in Norfolk, Virginia. At the conclusion of the Institute, the Office was able to certify 22 new EMS educators.

The Office is hopeful that we will be able to conduct the winter Education Coordinator Institute in late January:

- The deadline for EC Candidates to have completed all requirements in order to be considered eligible for this institute is 5:00 pm December 6, 2020.
- Invitations will be sent to eligible candidates via e-mail on the morning of December 8, 2020.
- More information can be found at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-education-coordinator-requirements/>

## Education Coordinator Updates

The ACE Division has been able to hold three (3) socially distant Education Coordinator Updates—one in NOVA, one in Norfolk and one in Keswick—after verifying seating capacity and the ability of our host sites to accept “outside guests.”

Due to restrictions in place for COVID-19 and in keeping with the Governor’s Phase Three Guidelines, we require 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.

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/>

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EMS Training Funds

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| <b>Certification Level</b>                                     | <b>No. Awarded</b> | <b>Amount Awarded</b> |
| EMR  | 0                  | --                    |
| EMT  | 154                | \$129,979.00          |
| AEMT   | 28                 | \$31,599.00           |
| Paramedic  | 114                | \$546,324.00          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>   | <b>296</b>         | <b>\$707,902.00</b>   |

Psychomotor Test Site Activity

- A. BLS Psychomotor Testing has been suspended for the remainder of 2020. A workgroup of the Training and Certification Committee will continue their work, when safe to do so, on changes to the BLS testing through a more comprehensive critical thinking scenario based evaluation rather than the memorization of skill sheets.

Other Activities

- Debbie Akers is serving on the committee to rewrite the Education Standards and Instructional Guidelines. The completion of this project has been delayed and the anticipated release date of the new Education Standards will be March, 2021.
- Debbie Akers is serving on the workgroup who will be looking at Competency Based Education with the National Registry.

# February 2021 Advisory Board Update

## Committees

- A.** The Training and Certification Committee (TCC): The Training and Certification Committee meeting scheduled for January 6, 2021 was cancelled due to Executive Order 72 pertaining to COVID-19.

Copies of past minutes are available on the Office of EMS Web page here:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/training-certification-committee-standing/>.

- B.** The Medical Direction Committee (MDC): The Medical Direction Committee meeting scheduled for January 7, 2021 was cancelled due to Executive Order 72 pertaining to COVID-19.

Copies of past minutes are available from the Office of EMS web page at:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/medical-direction-committee-standing/>

## Accreditation

All EMS programs that are in need of a site visit having gained accreditation either through Letter of Review or through full accreditation have been granted an extension of expiration until December 31, 2021. No accreditation visits will be scheduled until such time as it is deemed safe due to COVID-19.

**A.** EMS accreditation program.

1. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
  - a) The following EMT programs are under Letter of Review:
    1. Arlington County Fire Department
    2. Fauquier County
    3. Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy
    4. Augusta County
    5. Rockingham County Dept. of Fire and Rescue
    6. Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue
    7. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue
2. Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
  - a) The following AEMT programs are under Letter of Review:
    1. Newport News Fire Training

2. Fauquier County
3. Hampton Roads Regional EMS Academy
4. Augusta County
5. Rockingham County Dept. of Fire and Rescue

3. Paramedic – Initial

National accreditation occurs through the *Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions* (CoAEMSP – [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org)).

- a) Blue Ridge Community College has been issued their LOR from CoAEMSP and is enrolling students for their first cohort class.
- b) Thomas Nelson Community College has completed their first cohort class and are working on submission of their initial report to CoAEMSP.
- c) Henrico County Division of Fire has been issued a LOR from CoAEMSP and will be enrolling students for their first cohort class

4. Paramedic – Reaccreditation

National accreditation occurs through the *Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions* (CoAEMSP – [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org)).

- a) Prince William County Fire & Rescue CoAEMSP site visit will be virtual on May 10 and 11.

B. For more detailed information, please view the Accredited Site Directory found on the OEMS web site at:  
<https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=200:1>

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>Virginia COVID-19 Actions</b> |
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**Executive Order 72 - Common Sense Surge Restrictions Certain Temporary Restrictions Due To Novel Coronavirus**

This announcement has caused a number of you to reach out for further guidance. A full reading of the Executive Order 72 Section B1 – Other Restrictions explicitly indicates “...*the presence of more than 10 individuals performing functions of their employment or assembled in an educational instructional setting is not a “gathering.”*”

Based upon a full reading of the Executive Order 72, the Office has determined that there is no reason to change the number of students who can be present for EMS education programs to include initial and continuing education courses, however the **following guidance is now MANDATORY** for all classes being held from December 14, 2020 through January 31, 2021 unless and until other changes are adopted by the Governor.

- Everyone shall wear a face covering or face mask at all times while indoors.
- Everyone shall maintain 6ft social distancing at all times and throughout the class:
  - This means no small group gatherings to “catch up”
  - Please do not permit “gathering” or “hanging around” in main travel corridors in order to limit exposure.
- No handshaking, hugging or other physical contact.
- All Educators shall conduct Health Screenings at the start of your class in order to assist with Contact Tracing, should it be necessary. The use of forms [TR-900-INST – Student Screening Guidance Instructions](#) and [TR-900 – Student Screening Log](#) is required.

### **Prodigy Refresh 2021**

Refresh 2021 is an opportunity to do something nice for the EMS profession during what has otherwise been a distressing and disorienting year for our profession.

Refresh 2021 will provide 30 hours of CAPCE accredited education that will be accepted by NREMT. 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.

There is no catch, the NCCR is completely free. After you complete all of the modules you will receive 30 CAPCE F3 (distributive) hours for you to use towards your recertification. This training is designed to meet the entire NCCR for all level of providers. For EMRs, EMTs, and AEMTs you can use the remaining hours towards your local or individual.

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

The transfer of data will be manual, so CE credits will not immediately show up on your CE Report.

Refresh 2021 Launches December 15<sup>th</sup>! Click here for more information: <https://www.prodigyems.com/refresh2021>

## 16th Percentile Peer-to-Peer Benchmarking

The Office just published the *16th Percentile Peer-to-Peer Benchmarking* for January 2021. The *16th Percentile Peer-to-Peer Benchmark* is used by the Office of EMS to compare Education Coordinators conducting like programs in contrast to one another.

This tool is used to by the Office of EMS to determine which programs are eligible for funding through the Virginia EMS Scholarship Program and to determine which Education Coordinators in the Commonwealth can serve as mentors for the Education Coordinator certification program.

Note: We did not update the *16th Percentile Peer-to-Peer Benchmark* data last July due to issues with courses that were delayed in finishing due to the declared COVID-19 pandemic.

More information can be found at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/program-rankings-based-on-16th-percentile-peer-to-peer-benchmarking/>

## REGULATORY REMINDER: 12VAC5-31-1439. Verification of student course completion.

This is a reminder to educators that **all students must be provided a disposition upon course end date** having been reached.

- 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.
- ALS students have 180 days or must be enrolled in a new course to continue their path toward certification.

## Training & Certification Committee Elections for the 2021-2023 Term

Elections were held earlier this month for the three open spots on the Training & Certification Committee. Results were sent to TCC Chairperson Dr. Jason Ferguson and he has confirmed the election results. Appointments are as follows:

- Reappointment of **Brian McIntosh** as the representative of all Virginia Education Coordinators – Term Expires 2023
- Reappointment of **Bill Akers** as the representative of Virginia Community College EMS Programs – Term Expires 2023
- Reappointment of **Craig Evans** as the representative of the Regional Council Directors Group – Term Expires 2023.

Congrats to each of these individuals!

## WASP CE Scanner Pickup

In early December 2020, ACE Division staff toured the Commonwealth meeting educators in their communities to distribute the new WASP CE Barcode scanners. Requirements to be eligible to receive a scanner are:

1. You must be a certified Education Coordinator or endorsed ALS Coordinator with a current card. If you are in reentry, you will not be able to obtain a scanner.

Now that the bulk of the distribution is completed, we are making three different options available to those who were unable to meet us in person. Please click the link below to see how you can obtain your scanner.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/wasp-ce-scanner-distribution-for-education-coordinators/>

## ACE Division Website Update

We have been slowly updating the ACE Division website to make it more user friendly and to try and ensure users are being directed to the information they are seeking.

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please forward them to Chad Blosser ([chad.blosser@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:chad.blosser@vdh.virginia.gov)). Please note, we do have restrictions placed on us by the Virginia Department of Health, so not all suggestions will be able to be incorporated.

|                   |
|-------------------|
| National Registry |
|-------------------|

## National Registry Certification Applications

Educators **should not be approving** a second application for students who failed their first attempt at the NREMT Cognitive Exam. Students who failed their first attempt need to click “Express Application” to continue their testing attempts.

By approving new applications for certification testing, Educators are authorizing the Virginia Office of EMS to pay for a second, third, etc. attempt at the exam, which is a violation of established policy.

## National Registry Website

The National Registry just updated their website. It looks and functions very differently from the past version. If you had bookmarks to various pages on [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org), you may want to take some time to familiarize yourself with the new site and update those book marks so you are not struggling to locate information you need at the last minute.

## **NREMT Provisional Certifications**

Provisional certifications extended to June 30, 2021 by the National Registry but all provisional certificates will expire on December 31, 2021.

### *Important Information*

- National Registry Provisional Certifications will continue to be issued until June 30, 2021.
- Provisional Certification will be automatically assigned to any candidate that;
  - Completes an educational program at the EMR, EMT, AEMT or Paramedic level, and
  - Successfully passes the National Registry's cognitive (computer-based) examination.
- Provisional certification is a National Registry certification but is not the same as being fully Nationally Registered.
- The path to convert a provisional certification to full Nationally Registry certification only requires successful completion of the psychomotor examination.
- Provisional Certifications will remain valid through the end of next year – December 31, 2021; or until an EMS provider passes the psychomotor examination before the expiration date.
- Please check with your State EMS Office for state rules on using provisional certifications for licensure or authorization to practice.

### *VERY Important Information*

- All National Registry provisionally certified candidates have until December 31, 2021; or until an EMS provider passes the psychomotor examination before the expiration date.
- ANY PROVIDER with a National Registry and Virginia provisional certification should begin planning now to schedule and complete their NREMT psychomotor examination in order to convert their provisional certification to a full certification.
- Any Virginia EMS provider with a provisional certification as of January 1, 2023 will be reported to the Division of Regulation & Compliance and their provisional certification will be revoked immediately for failing to follow through with established NREMT and OEMS policies.

## **National Registry & OEMS Data Exchange**

The National Registry is currently experiencing an issue with the processing of the BLS psychomotor results forwarded to them by Virginia after the students have been marked as passed in the CSDR. Their IT team is working on a resolution but testing candidates will likely receive a provisional certification from the National Registry.

***PLEASE NOTE:*** Virginia does not issue provisional certifications for EMR and EMT candidates. Full certification will be issued by Virginia and their full NR certification will be issued when the current IT situation is resolved.

## National Registry Recert 2.0 for 2021

As a reminder, please have providers use the [Guide to Completing National Registry Recertification 2.0 Application](#) when completing their NR recertification and to choose the 'Recertify Me' option in their Virginia EMS Portal after being notified of their NR recertification in order to keep their Virginia and National Registry certifications in sync.

## National Registry Audits

The National Registry will be contacting Debbie Akers for any provider who has been selected for audit. If the CE reports are not aligned, Debbie will not be able to verify their recertification eligibility and they will need to be prepared to produce the documentation for National Registry.

This is one of the key benefits to making use of the [Guide to Completing National Registry Recertification 2.0 Application](#) which has been developed by OEMS and approved by National Registry to assist Virginia providers who are certified with National Registry to complete their recertification application based on the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP).

## National Registry Cognitive Examinations

- NREMT currently offers two different options for taking the cognitive exams: face-to-face exams at a Pearson VUE Testing Center and remotely proctored exams making use of Pearson OnVUE.
  - Candidates, when applying for their cognitive exam have the opportunity to select whether they would like to take their exam face-to-face exams at a Pearson VUE Testing Center or a remotely proctored exam on Pearson OnVUE.
    - [Sample face-to-face exam ATT Letter](#)
    - [Sample Pearson OnVUE ATT Letter](#).
  - *If a candidate decides to change their method of testing from face-to-face to Pearson OnVUE or vice versa, they can do so, however the issuance of a new ATT letter will take at least 24 hours to generate before they can then schedule the examination through the process they have chosen.*
    - [Click here for screenshots](#) of how to change your testing method from face-to-face testing to Pearson OnVUE.

## General Updates

### Virginia Course Approval Requests

Another long promised enhancement to the Virginia EMS Portal is finally here. Today we are introducing online submission of EMS Course Requests through the Virginia EMS Portal. Beginning Tuesday, October 27, 2020, the Office of EMS no longer accepts electronic or paper submissions of form TR-01 – Course Approval Request. Any paper or electronic forms

received from October 27, 2020 forward will be returned to the Education Coordinator / ALS-Coordinator and they will be asked to login to the Virginia EMS Portal to complete their submissions.

## **Digital Certification Cards**

The Office of EMS introduce digital certification cards to EMS providers, EMS Physicians and EMS Agency Leadership in late October.

Digital certificates make keeping your certification with you easier than ever. The certificates are easy to pull up from a cell phone or computer. Digital certificates also make it a snap for an employer or organization to check and verify your certification levels.

Accessing a digital version of your certification card is as easy as logging into the Virginia EMS Portal. A fact sheet on digital certification cards is attached to this message. Providers can now download their certification card directly to their devices and keep it with them in digital format wherever they go!

### Why transition to digital certification?

1. EMS providers lose their certification cards, frequently. With digital certification cards providers never have to worry about replacement cards because providers will always have access to the digital certification for the duration of their certification period.
2. Saving taxpayer money! Certification card stock, the cost of envelopes and postage, manpower to print, fold and stuff cards all cost money! Money which could be better spent on new technology resources, increased funding for the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund, and other benefits to the EMS system as a whole.
3. Instead of faxing or mailing copies of your certification card to your employer or anyone requesting proof of your training, just e-mail them your Virginia EMS Certification card. It's fast and easy!
4. Be on the cutting edge and go green! Save our valuable natural resources whenever possible.

### Concerned about Safety and Security?

Verify any Virginia EMS certification quickly on the Office of EMS website. This website allows for a search by a certificate number, first and last name and/or agency. If you are an employer and your employee has given you his or her Virginia EMS certification, or even just the certification number, you can use it to search for the certificate to validate that it's valid as well as see when it expires.

This tool makes compliance and HR record keeping a breeze. Just go to the Virginia Office of EMS Digital Certification Verification web page and search for the certificate number you are trying to verify.

- <https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=200:3>

Once you've had a digital certification card, you'll have a hard time going back to "the way we used to do it."

Please see the online training for this new module for how to access digital certification cards.

- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/virginia-ems-portal-training-videos/>

## Education Program

### **Education Coordinator and ALS Coordinator Certification Extensions**

- Due to Executive Order 72 et seq., the Virginia Office of EMS will be extending the expiration dates for Education Coordinators and ALS Coordinators with an expiration date of June 30, 2021 through December 31, 2021 until June 30, 2022.
- The Education Coordinator Update schedule can be found online at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-educator-update-schedule/>

### **Education Coordinator Candidate Program**

Due to Executive Order 72 et seq., the Virginia Office of EMS, the Office was not able to conduct the winter Education Coordinator Institute in late January:

- More information can be found at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-education-coordinator-requirements/>

### **Education Coordinator Updates**

Due to Executive Order 72 et seq., the Office has not scheduled any EC Updates for 2021 to date. We will wait until later this spring to determine if we can offer EC Updates later in the summer/fall of this year.

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/>

EMS Training Funds

| <b>Table. 1 – Virginia EMS Scholarship Program – FY21 (Q1 &amp; Q2)</b> |            |            |                      |
|---|------------|------------|----------------------|
| Certification Level   | Q1         | Q2 (cum)   | Amount Awarded (cum) |
| EMR   | 0          | 5          | \$580.00             |
| EMT   | 154        | 231        | \$189,010.00         |
| AEMT  | 28         | 41         | \$47,639.00          |
| Paramedic   | 114        | 138        | \$665,920.00         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>296</b> | <b>415</b> | <b>\$903,148.00</b>  |

Psychomotor Test Site Activity

- A. BLS Psychomotor Testing has been suspended for the remainder of 2020. A workgroup of the Training and Certification Committee will continue their work, when safe to do so, on changes to the BLS testing through a more comprehensive critical thinking scenario based evaluation rather than the memorization of skill sheets.

Other Activities

- Debbie Akers is serving on the committee to rewrite the Education Standards and Instructional Guidelines. The completion of this project has been delayed and the anticipated release date of the new Education Standards will be March, 2021.
- Debbie Akers is serving on the workgroup who will be looking at Competency Based Education with the National Registry.



# Digital Certification Card Fact Sheet<sup>1</sup>

A Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (heretofore referred to as the Virginia Office of EMS) digital certification card (sample attached) is the electronic form of a Virginia Office of EMS printed certification card. "Digital" is defined as "composed of data in the form of especially binary digits. E.g. "digital images".<sup>2</sup> The term "certification" means verification that on the indicated completion date the participant named on the Virginia Office of EMS certification card demonstrated achievement of the required knowledge and hands-on skill performance objectives to the satisfaction of a qualified and currently authorized Virginia Office of EMS provider. Certification (or recertification) in a Virginia Office of EMS training program is documented by the legitimate issuance of a correctly completed Virginia Office of EMS print or digital certification card.

Virginia Office of EMS does not offer or endorse online-only initial emergency medical services certification training programs. Virginia Office of EMS training is competency-based and certification requires evaluation and verification of a participant's cognitive and psychomotor skills as required by the National Registry of EMT's. Online-only initial EMS certification training does not meet the standards of the Virginia Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services or the National Registry of EMT's.

## Relevant Facts Concerning Electronic Records

1. The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have permitted electronic recordkeeping of employee safety training records since 1997.<sup>3</sup>
2. Just as with paper documents, electronic documents are a record. Regarding its own records management program, OSHA has stated "*The electronic data may be considered a copy of a hard copy or paper record. If a hard copy or paper record is not maintained, then the electronic copy is the record copy*".<sup>4</sup>
3. Since 2001 U.S. Federal courts have accepted electronic records (legal filings) over the Internet via the Public Access to Court Electronic Records ([PACER](#)) system.
4. Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure require civil litigants to preserve and produce any electronically stored information as it can play an important role as evidence.<sup>5</sup> There is no doubt that electronic records have the same legal force as those produced in other formats (such as paper).
5. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations permit electronic records and electronic signatures as equivalent to paper records and handwritten signatures executed on paper. FDA regulations are intended to permit the widest possible use of electronic technology, compatible with FDA's responsibility to protect the public health.<sup>6</sup>
6. Web content is rendered in two basic forms - dynamic and static. Dynamic web content consists of information that is rendered differently based on specific user input and is managed in a database associated with a server. Static content consists of information in the form of documents that are rendered identically each time they are accessed. Both static and dynamic web content are considered a permanent record and meet the requirements of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Electronic Records Management (ERM) E-Gov Initiative.<sup>7</sup>
  - a. Virginia Office of EMS Digital Certification Cards are both static and dynamic. Each document is rendered identically in static format (PDF) and is based on the providers dynamic certification records in the Virginia EMS Portal.
  - b. Every Digital Certification Card is a true and accurate record of the original information received by the Virginia Office of EMS on the date the record was downloaded and is uniquely tracked in the Virginia EMS Portal electronic content managementsystem.

7. The United States Federal Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) uses *reliability, authenticity, integrity, and usability* to describe the characteristics of trustworthy records.<sup>8</sup> The Virginia Office of EMS follows best practice guidelines regarding reliability, authenticity, integrity, and usability. Consequently, a Virginia Office of EMS Digital Certification Card(s):
- a. *Reliably* identifies the certified Virginia Office of EMS Education Coordinator and the National Registry of EMT's as the record source and provides evidence that the Virginia Office of EMS certified Education Coordinator documented achievement of the participant's knowledge in cognitive and psychomotor performance according to the program standard.
  - b. *Authentically* establishes what it purports to be. The Virginia Office of EMS business practices and electronic content management system controls the creation, transmission, receipt, and maintenance of the Digital Certification Card. The transaction is tied electronically to the Virginia Office of EMS Portal.
  - c. *Integrity* is supported by Virginia Office of EMS rules and regulations, standards, business practices, and electronic content management system that prohibit alteration.
  - d. *Usability* ensures that it can be located, retrieved, presented, and directly connected to the provider's certification records and certified Education Coordinator who coordinated the program. The link to the Digital Certification Card remains permanently active.

## About the Virginia Office of EMS

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Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) is responsible for planning and coordinating an effective and efficient statewide EMS system. Our programs and services are designed to assure quality prehospital patient care, from when the call is received by the 911 center to the delivery of the patient to the trauma center or hospital.

*If you have questions please contact us at 804-888-9100.*

**Disclaimer:** Governmental entities may or may not be authorized, empowered, or required by law to accept electronic records. This Fact Sheet cannot address all the possible implications, applications, or exceptions to acceptance of electronic records, including Digital Certification Cards.

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<sup>1</sup> Last reviewed/updated: October 26, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/digital>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/1997-08-14>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/enforcement/directives/adm-03-01-004>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2010-title28/html/USCODE-2010-title28-app-federalru-dup1-rule34.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/ucm125067.htm>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/initiatives/web-content-records.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-105publ277/pdf/PLAW-105publ277.pdf>

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
(804) 888-9100 OR (800) 523-6019 IN VA

EXPIRES  
03/31/2021



CERTIFIED AS  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN



JOHN L DOE  
1041 TECHNOLOGY PARK DRIVE  
GLEN ALLEN VA 23059

CERTIFICATE NUMBER  
B122701701

*Gary R. Brown*

DIRECTOR OF OEMS

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SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

QR code takes you to the OEMS Digital Certification Verification web page.

Provider continuing education QR code.

State seal with micro printing for document security.

Unique font kerning for document security.

Director of OEMS signature with micro printing for document security.