

Chad Blosser

From: Chad Blosser
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Chad Blosser
Cc: 'Akers, Deborah'
Subject: Educator Update: September 2021

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

Dear Educators,

Hello and good afternoon. Here are a few timely updates.

COVID Vaccination Guidance for Fall EMS Courses

Education Coordinators have the autonomy to make COVID-19 vaccination a requirement to enroll in their programs in consultation with their EMS Physician.

If you allow a student to enroll in and participate in your program knowing that the current policies are they must be vaccinated to complete their patient contacts in the field, you need to have an attestation statement signed by the unvaccinated student indicating that they acknowledge that they are taking the class for educational purposes only and further understand they will **NOT** be eligible to gain EMT certification due to their lack of fulfilling the field patient contacts.

OEMS staff do not anticipate providing a blanket policy on vaccinations as each program/jurisdiction/hospital system, etc., are all offering differing views on this process.

Each Education Coordinator, in consultation with their EMS Physician will have to determine what policies to put in place based on the clinical and field settings where they would place their students.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/educator-resources/covid-19-guidance-for-ems-educators/>

Clinical/field Site Requirements

The VEMSES requires that students have patient contacts in a field setting and they need to gain knowledge of how the Emergency Department works. To satisfy the ED requirement, you can have a representative from the hospital/s provide an overview via Zoom or visiting your class to let the students know what to expect when bringing a patient to their facility. ALS programs must complete a minimum of 12 hours in an Emergency Department setting. A free standing ED can be used to satisfy these 12 hours. The additional 24 hours can be completed in other clinical settings (health department, free clinic, physician's office, etc.)

The Office of EMS is still allowing the use of attestation statements if you cannot place your students in a clinical or field site, however this needs to be an "all or none" situation per clinical or field site, not something that is directed to those who refuse to become vaccinated.

You also have the ability to place them in alternative locations such as nursing homes, doctor's offices, etc., but will likely encounter some of the same issues that you are experiencing with the hospitals.

Education Coordinator and ALS-Coordinator Updates

We have added additional updates to the calendar this year—the full schedule for this calendar year is posted on the OEMS website at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-educator-update-schedule/>

Registration is required to attend all EC/ALS-C updates. If you have not yet been to an update post-COVID, then your EC certification or ALS-C endorsement most likely is set to expire on June 30, 2022.

National Registry ALS Psychomotor Examination

In early August, the National Registry announced their intent to sunset the ALS Psychomotor Exam for both the Advanced EMT and Paramedic certification levels. This change will bring EMS education and certification practices more closely in alignment with those of other medical and allied health professions.

As the process continues to move forward NREMT will continue working with the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP), the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) and EMS educators across the country.

The ALS Psychomotor Exam will be retired by mid-2023 at which time it will be replaced with the Computer-based Performance Exam. The implementation of these changes will take place in a phased approach beginning in 2022 and wrapping up in mid-2023.

Candidates (students) starting a testing process—be it the old process or the new one—will be required to complete certification under the process they started. Candidates will not be permitted to switch processes mid-stream.

As the National Registry releases more information, the Office of EMS will continue to update Virginia agencies, educators and the Virginia EMS Advisory Board.

EMSAT/CentreLearn End-of-Life

The Office was recently informed that effective September 30, 2021, CentreLearn/EMSAT will no longer be available to current users of the service. Users will not be able to access the service from this date and must download any certificates or course completions they wish to retain before the service is taken offline. The Virginia Office of EMS would like to extend our sincere appreciation to VectorSolutions—the parent company for CentreLearn/EMSAT—for hosting our content and reporting completions over the past seven years for no charge.

Since 2014, CentreLearn/EMSAT has enabled Virginia EMS providers to access free online continuing education programs produced by the Virginia Office of EMS. However, as technology has changed, VectorSolutions has determined that in order to continue to provide the best experience for their users, they need to retire the CentreLearn/EMSAT platform. Additionally, much of the content on CentreLearn/EMSAT has aged and is no longer considered best-practice medicine.

In the second half of 2021, the Office of EMS will be launching Blackboard—a Learning Management System—which will enable EMS educators across the Commonwealth to develop innovative new continuing education experiences for Virginia agencies and providers.

We regret that this change will cause disruption for some users. As we move towards the launch of the new experience, we will continue to update you. Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions below for additional information.

Please reach out to the educators and agencies in your region and consider collaborative efforts in offering continuing education classes to assist the recertification needs of providers until the content is available on Blackboard.

As always, should you have any questions, please let us know.

Best,

Chad

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Office of EMS is teleworking and not available in the office. We continue to monitor the ongoing situation regarding the spread of COVID-19. For more information and updates on COVID-19 please visit the link below: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/coronavirus-2019-covid-19/>.

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

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