



**NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Health Service Regulation

**ROY COOPER** • Governor  
**MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH** • Secretary  
**MARK PAYNE** • Director

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** EMS System Administrators  
EMS Agency Primary Contacts  
EMS Training Officers  
EMS Institution Program Coordinators  
EMS Instructors

**FROM:** Tom Mitchell, Chief  
North Carolina Office of EMS

**DATE:** March 25, 2020

**RE:** Temporary Suspension of Portions of North Carolina Administrative Code

Due to the current situation in North Carolina with Covid-19, the Office of EMS is taking measures to provide relief to local EMS agencies, EMS institutions, EMS instructors, EMS personnel and EMS students.

The Department of Health and Human Service, Division of Health Service Regulation, Office of EMS is temporarily suspending portions of 10A NCAC 13P .0501, .0502, .0504, .0510, and .0600, which relates to EMS educational programs, Initial credentialing, Renewal of credentials, Renewal of instructor credentials and EMS educational institutions.

This temporary suspension is being implemented to allow EMS educational programs the flexibility to proceed with current courses and allow students alternatives for completing their course requirements.

With the current situation:

- We will allow the use of high-fidelity simulation for a maximum of 50% of the students remaining clinical/field time
- Students currently in AEMT and Paramedic courses may obtain a maximum of 50% of their skills and field time while working as the second person of an ambulance crew.
- While the student may perform the skills and acquire the time, they are not allowed to be the primary care giver.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION**  
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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- All modifications to current courses must be submitted to the appropriate Regional Educational Specialist for approval.

With the recent closures of select Scantron exam sites, we understand some applicants may be nearing their 90-day testing window. For the most up to date Exam site closures, please visit <https://www.scantron.com/site-closures-delays/>. Those applicants affected by exam site closures due to Covid19 may request an extension to the 90-day testing window.

To assist EMS agencies and institutions with the renewing of staff and alleviate potential staffing issues due to Covid-19, current EMS Instructors and Providers expiring between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020, will receive an automatic 6-month extension.

To allow EMS education institutions to focus on their impacted courses and students, EMS Educational Institutions expiring between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020 may request a 6-month extension by contacting their respective Regional Educational Specialist.

We have compiled a listing of anticipated questions related to this exemption and have listed them below to assist you in utilizing this exemption. If you have additional questions not included below, please direct them to your Regional Office.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Educational Programs**

Colleges and educational institutions are moving to virtual formats. How do we complete clinical and ride time?

- Educational Programs need to be in contact with their respective Educational Specialists. We will allow the use of high-fidelity simulation for a maximum of 50% of the students remaining clinical/field time. We will allow AEMT and Paramedics students to obtain a maximum of 50% of their skills and field time as the second person of an ambulance crew. While the student may perform the skills and acquire the time, they are not allowed to transport the patient as the lone provider. All modifications to current courses must be submitted to the appropriate Regional Educational Specialist for approval.

What if we need to extend course end dates?

- Educational Institutions planning to extend or modify their current/future courses will need to plan accordingly. All modifications must be submitted to and approved by your Regional Education Specialist.

### **Initial Credentialing**

I am in the process of applying for initial credentialing. What if, due to testing site closures, I am unable to schedule my first attempt of the state certification exam within the required 90-day window?

- Those applicants affected by exam site closures due to Covid19 will receive an extension of the 90-day testing window. Our Education Staff will handle each situation on a case by case basis. Affected applicants will need to contact their respective Regional Educational Specialist to obtain an extension.

### **Renewal of Credentials for EMT, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic and EMD**

I am in the process of renewing my credential. What are my options if my credential expires during COVID-19?

- Current EMS Instructors and Providers expiring between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020, we will provide an automatic 6-month extension.

### **Renewal of Credentials for Level I and Level II EMS Instructors:**

My instructor credential is eligible for renewal, but I am unable to complete the requirements for renewal due to COVID-19.

- Current EMS Instructors expiring between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020, we will provide an automatic 6-month extension

### **EMS Educational Institutions**

As Program Coordinator, the EMS Educational Institution for which I am responsible is due to be renewed during COVID-19. Would the Educational Institution be able apply for an extension?

- OEMS will allow Institutions expiring between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020 to continue to function in their normal capacity or they may request a 6-month extension. EMS education institutions wishing to obtain a 6-month extension may contact their respective Regional Educational Specialist.

### **How long will this exemption be in effect?**

The Covid-19 situation is changing daily. Our goal is to provide measures that allow all aspects of EMS to continue to serve their communities with little disruption as possible. OEMS will continue to monitor the situation from a statewide perspective and make decisions on relief measures as needed. Currently we do not have an expiration date on this provision.