

To: Vermont EMS

From: Dan Batsie, Emergency Medical Services Chief

Date: May 8, 2020

Re: Restarting EMS Psychomotor Education and Testing

Restarting EMS Psychomotor Education

In consultation with the Vermont Department of Health Epidemiology Division and under the authorization of Governor Phil Scott's Executive Order Addendum 13, Vermont Emergency Medical Services (EMS) hereby authorizes the limited reopening of EMS education programs including the resumption of psychomotor and practical training and evaluation as of May 11, 2020.

While the use of distributive (online) methods should be employed whenever possible to meet educational goals, in person skill-based sessions will be allowed under the following conditions:

- *No other non-congregate methodology is available to meet the educational need.*
- *Training centers, program directors, and instructors agree to meet the practical education guidelines listed below.*
- *Programs include an option for students to opt out of congregate sessions without penalty and be assigned an "incomplete" status. Students in this category must be offered a plan for ongoing completion or the option to withdraw from the program following existing program guidelines.*
- *This authorization of congregate EMS education sessions does not mandate other organizations, schools, or municipalities to allow such gatherings. Training centers and educators must comply with local regulations and guidance.*
- *Programs perform a daily prescreen of all staff, instructors, and students (see prescreening procedures below)*
- *Programs maintain a written record of both attendance and prescreening.*
- *All students are presented with a copy of this policy before resuming in-person education*

VERMONT EMS PRESCREENING REQUIREMENTS

Prior to conducting any congregate education, a program director, site coordinator, or designated safety officer must perform a daily prescreen for all instructors, staff, and students prior to opening the educational site. This prescreen be recorded in writing and include:

- Reporting of any positive COVID-19 test results within the last 12 days or any known unprotected contact/exposure with a known COVID-19 patient within the last 12 days.
- Reporting of any respiratory illness symptoms (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath)
- Temperature screening

Any participant who presents with a positive COVID-19 test result, COVID-19 related symptoms, a fever, or an unprotected exposure within the last 12 days must be excluded from the congregate session.

VERMONT EMS PRACTICAL EDUCATION GUIDELINES

LIMIT 10 STUDENTS

No more than 10 students may participate in a single congregate session. If multiple cohorts use the same facility, care must be taken to assure that each group remains distinctly separate without comingling in shared spaces.

SAFETY OFFICER

A safety officer who is knowledgeable about the most current health and safety requirements must be appointed. This person must be physically present for the duration of the training or testing session and have the authority to stop or modify activities or dismiss participants to ensure compliance with requirements.

FACE MASKS REQUIRED

All participants must wear a face-covering while in the facility or, if outdoors, while in proximity to others.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

When participating in a skill session or scenario that requires close contact with another student, instructor or patient, personal protective equipment must additionally include eye protection and gloves.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

The facility used must provide sufficient space for adequate social distancing of participants. Activities should always be spaced 6 feet apart and students should maintain adequate social distancing (>6') unless close contact is absolutely necessary. Education and testing activities should be carried out with the minimum number of participants present.

ROUTINE CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

The facility must be routinely cleaned and disinfected and have sufficient disinfection supplies on hand. All equipment must be disinfected between uses to the satisfaction of the safety officer. In addition, the facility must support access to handwashing and/or hand sanitizer.

