

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner



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Governor
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Lt. Governor

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OEMS COMMUNICATIONS STATEMENT 20-04

Date: March 16, 2020

To: EMS Instructors
Sponsor Hospital EMS Coordinator
EMS Organizations

From: Raffaella Coler, RN, MEd, Paramedic 
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

Re: Suspension of EMT Clinical Experience

In order to reduce the risk of person-to-person transmission of the COVID-19 virus, all clinical experiences for EMT initial courses are suspended until further notice. EMT programs shall develop educational modules to meet the following requirements as established by the [EMS Education Standards](#):

“Students should observe emergency department operations for a period of time sufficient to gain an appreciation for the continuum of care.” This requirement may be met by a classroom presentation (in person or virtual) that describes the patient flow through the emergency department from time of arrival by EMS until discharge. This could include video, photographs, slide presentations or interviews with ED staff.

“Students must perform ten patient assessments. These can be performed in an emergency department, ambulance, clinic, nursing home, doctor's office, etc. or on standardized patients if clinical settings are not available.” While these assessments have traditionally been conducted in the ED or during ambulance ride time, the education program should arrange for each EMT student to conduct a full assessment of ten (10) standardized simulated patients. The simulated patients should be selected for their knowledge of basic medical conditions, their ability to interact and play the part of a patient, and their willingness to provide feedback to the student.

After the current outbreak is considered under control, such students, even once certified, may be allowed a deferred ED or ambulance clinical experience, subject to program policies. This policy does not apply to AEMT or paramedic training programs.



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