

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OEMS COMMUNICATIONS STATEMENT 21-02

Date: August 11, 2021
To: All EMS Instructors
From: Raffaella Coler, RN, MEd, EMS-I, Paramedic 
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services
Joel Demers, NRP, EMS-I 
EMS Education Coordinator
Re: 2021 Legislation Pertaining to EMS Education

The Connecticut General Assembly has enacted several Public Acts that impact education and certification or licensing of EMS providers. These acts are listed below and clarified on the following pages.

- [Public Act 21-46](#) requires additional training for renewing certified EMS professionals regarding PTSD, depression, grief and suicide prevention
- [Public Act 21-103](#) requires additional training for all EMS personnel in human trafficking
- [Public Act 21-121](#) allows certified EMS professional to maintain their own continuing education records, subject to inspection upon request of the Department
- [Public Act 21-134](#) allows Mental Health First Aid training to be accepted from alternative certification programs

The office will provide the necessary information regarding the implementation of these acts as it becomes available. Questions regarding education matters may be addressed to Joel.Demers@ct.gov.

Additional legislation pertaining to other aspects of emergency medical services will be addressed in a separate communication.



Phone: (860) 509-7975 • Fax: (860) 730-8384
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
www.ct.gov/dph

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer



2021 Public Acts Pertaining to EMS Education

- [Public Act 21-46](#) requires additional training for renewing EMRs, EMTs and AEMTs. Refer to Sec. 9, specifically on page 11, subsection (e).
 - Effective **January 1, 2022**, Renewal of EMR, EMT, AEMT certification will require evidence that the certified person has completed during the previous six (6) years either:
 - The “evidence-based youth suicide prevention training administered pursuant to section 1 of this act”, or
 - “Not less than two (2) hours of training or education approved by the Commissioner of Public Health (through OEMS) on screening for post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief and suicide prevention.”
 - This training may be counted as Continuing Medical Education towards the minimum hours required of each level of certification.
 - *Note that PA 21-121 made a technical change to the previously enacted PA 21-46, listed above, by removing EMS instructors from the requirement for such training.*
- [Public Act 21-103](#) added EMS personnel to the list of those professions required to participate in approved educational program for the accurate and prompt identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking. Refer to Sec. 6 on page 6 of the linked document.
 - Initial training is to be completed within 6 months of hire as an EMS provider
 - Refresher training is to be completed every three years thereafter.
 - This requirement lies with the EMS personnel and employers and will not be regulated by the Office of EMS.
 - The primary contact for this program is Tammy Sneed, the Director of Gender Responsive Adolescent Services with the Department of Children and Families.
Tammy.Sneed@ct.gov or 860-550-6471 (email preferred)
 - This program is approved by OEMS as Continuing Medical Education.
- [Public Act 21-121](#) requires that a certified EMR, EMT, AEMT or EMS-I shall document the completion of his or her continuing education requirements in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. Refer to Sec. 95 beginning on page 125.
 - The form and manner will be as follows: (a separate statement will follow)
 - The certified EMR, EMT, AEMT or EMS-I shall maintain records of their continuing education and produce such evidence upon the request of the Department, and
 - The certified EMR, EMT, AEMT or EMS-I shall make an attestation under penalties of perjury that they have completed such continuing education at the time of application for renewal.
 - This removes the requirement for EMR, EMT and AEMT professionals to utilize a specific “Continuing education platform Internet website” to track and reconcile the hours and topics of continuing education. When originally enacted, this requirement anticipated immediate implementation of the NREMT CME tracking system.

- [Public Act 21-134](#) modifies the requirement for Mental Health First Aid training for all newly licensed paramedics to be as part of a program provided by an instructor certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health or any other certifying organization with substantially similar certification requirements, as determined by the commissioner.
 - Previously, only the National Council for Behavioral Health was allowed.
 - Programs approved by this department may also be counted