



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Public Health
Commissioner's Office

Bill J. Crouch
Cabinet Secretary

Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH
Commissioner & State Health Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Agencies
EMS Prehospital Providers
West Virginia Community and Technical Colleges

FROM: Michael Mills, D.O., FACEP, State Medical Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services

DATE: March 13, 2020

RE: **NREMT and WVOEMS Initial Certification/Recertification Extension Due to COVID-19**

The safety, security, and health of West Virginia's prehospital providers are the highest priority for the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) and West Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (WVOEMS). Due to the Coronavirus situation, **TEMPORARY** measures have been taken by both the NREMT and WVOEMS to extend the March 31, 2020 expiration date for NREMT recertification, as well as, extending West Virginia State certification expirations of March 31, 2020.

The NREMT has approved new applicants and recertification for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT), and Paramedics expiring on March 31, 2020. The expiration date has **BEEN EXTENDED TO June 30, 2020**.

WVOEMS will also extend recertifications of EMVO, EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, MCCP, and MCCN state card holders expiring on March 31, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

Individuals who have not completed the recertification requirements will be **TEMPORARILY PERMITTED** to complete those requirements utilizing any CAPCE approved course and/or any online course provided through a WVOEMS approved Educational Institute. The minimum distributed hours set for each certification level are suspended temporarily for those individuals who have either NREMT or WVOEMS certification expiration dates of March 31, 2020. Your recert cycle for recertification will remain March 31st.

National registry has proposed the following regarding Initial Candidates for AEMT and Paramedics:

Psychomotor Examinations – The National Registry psychomotor examinations for AEMT and Paramedic will continue to be administered, subject to the guidance of NREMT. The decision to cancel an examination lies with the Examination Coordinator and the National Registry Representative in coordination with the National Registry examinations team. The decision to cancel an examination will be made as soon as is practical and candidates will be notified as soon as possible. Candidates should contact the Examination Coordinator for questions or to reschedule an examination, if necessary.

Cognitive Examinations – Pearson VUE is closely monitoring local conditions and following the guidance of local health authorities. Decisions will be made by each individual test center. The latest information can be found at the Pearson VUE <https://home.pearsonvue.com/coronavirus-update>

Course Completion Requirements – Some colleges and universities are suspending in-person courses and activities. This may impact learning labs, practicums, and clinical experiences. Candidates who are unable to complete the educational requirements due to the public health emergency are encouraged to coordinate with their Program Director. Program Directors are encouraged to coordinate with their State Office of EMS for any needed modifications to training schedules. AEMT/Paramedic Program Directors are also encouraged to review the CoAEMSP website for additional information. <https://coaemsp.org/>. CoAEMSP is presently working to come up with solutions to this issue and Program Directors should contact CoAEMSP with specific issues.

Examination Eligibility Deadlines - Applicants who are unable to complete the testing requirements within required National Registry's two-year deadline due to quarantine or impacts of the public health emergency are encouraged to coordinate with their State Office of EMS and contact Support@nremt.org prior to their expiration date.

There will be NO late fee assessed for either NREMT or WVOEMS due to the extension of the expiration March 31, 2020 date; however, late fees will be assessed if you are not in compliance after June 30, 2020.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet your recertification requirements. Questions should be forwarded to Danny Anderson at Danny.A.Anderson@wv.gov.