



To: Primary Instructors / Training Institution Staff  
From: Kraig Kinney, State EMS Director  
Date: April 21, 2020  
Re: Education Updates for COVID-19

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## STATUS OF EMR AND EMT EDUCATION IN INDIANA

- **Psychomotor Examinations:** The suspension of EMR and EMT psychomotor examinations from General Waiver Order #3 has expired. Given that the continuation of EMS programs and testing is vital to production of new EMS professionals, all EMR and EMT psychomotor examinations **may resume** and be conducted with the earlier guidelines issued under [COVID-19 Guidance and General Waiver #2](#) (3/17/20). Because each testing site is unique, the course coordinator and assigned state representative must determine if the test is being conducted in a manner that limits the risk of exposure to all participants. These actions are also consistent with the National Registry of EMTs handling of Advanced EMT and paramedic psychomotor examinations.
- **Clinical Experience:** The requirements remain that EMS education programs must train on skills, albeit with adjustment such as use of simulation and mannequins. The requirements for clinical experience still include eight (8) hours of hospital observation and eight (8) hours of ambulance clinical time and 10 patient contacts. Our prior guidance indicated that a training institution could modify the hospital observation and what is considered a patient contact. Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-19 issued on April 7, 2020, permits IDHS to consider waivers of educational requirements established by the EMS Commission. At this time, IDHS will consider waiver requests to waive clinical education requirements IF there is a plan of action to replace or fulfill the goal of the clinical experience. The waivers will be reviewed with accommodation in mind but the greatest consideration will be given to programs that have a specific plan of action to address the lack of a clinical experience. Suitable examples could include use of specific simulation techniques, virtual reality experiences, or an agreement with an EMS provider organization to provide an enhanced onboarding precepting program for students of the program. To submit a waiver request, the application should be completed and returned to [emscertifications@dhs.in.gov](mailto:emscertifications@dhs.in.gov). The application is at <https://www.in.gov/dhs/files/Waiver%20Application%202015%20fill-in.pdf>.
- **Postponed Courses:** Programs that elect to postpone class due to the pandemic or unavailability of clinical experience may do so, and the only notification required is an updated syllabus once the course resumes or begins.

IDHS continues to salute the EMS professionals who are working tirelessly during this pandemic and the educators who are having to adapt to a vastly new educational environment.