

Vermont EMS,

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has posed many challenges to the safe and effective delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) in Vermont. The complex and unprecedented demands we will all face in the weeks to come will require hard work, creative thinking, and most of all teamwork. In support of the brave men and women on the front lines of this pandemic, the Vermont Department of Health is taking the following steps to protect our workforce and support your operations. These measures will take effect March 20, 2020:

1. With authorization from Governor Philip Scott's Emergency Declaration of March 13, 2020 (Executive Order 01-20), EMS Rule 4.1.2, the requirement for two licensed providers for any EMS transport, is suspended for the period of the coronavirus response. Practitioners should use good clinical judgment to match crew configuration to patient need, but until further notice there is no longer a requirement to contact medical control to transport with a single licensed provider.
2. All EMS licensure classes are suspended until further notice. Classes in progress may continue to complete didactic content in a distributive (online) fashion, but in-person sessions should not take place. This includes practical, scenario, and clinical evolutions. This also includes in person continuing education classes.
3. All EMS licensure testing is suspended until further notice. This includes both cognitive (computer-based) and psychomotor. All cancelled tests will be rescheduled once it is deemed safe to do so.

In the coming weeks, Vermont EMS will examine the feasibility of pushing back personnel license renewal deadlines to match similar actions taken with National Registry recertification and to address the significant interruption in continuing education. More detailed information on these changes will be forthcoming.

In addition to the preceding administrative measures, the Vermont EMS Statewide Treatment Protocols will be amended to include the following additions:

1. COVID-19 Field Triage Guidance – This decision-making scheme is designed to identify potential COVID-19 patients who do not require transport to the hospital. Practitioners will use the designated criteria to assess the need for transport then reinforce the decision by contacting medical control. [This protocol and its accompanying education can be found at www.vermontems.org](#).
2. COVID-19 Assessment and Transport Protocol – This protocol describes key elements of assessment and risk mitigating procedures for suspected COVID-19 patients. This protocol and its accompanying education can be found at [www.vermontems.org](#).
3. Effective immediately, metered dose inhalers may be substituted for any nebulized

medication. This substitution does not affect scope of practice and practitioners should be familiar with the administration of any medication prior to administering it. Refer to the [Vermont Statewide EMS Protocols](#) as needed.

We appreciate all that you are doing in response to COVID-19. The Department of Health will continue to do everything we can to help. If you have any questions regarding these updates, please feel free to contact our office.

All the best,

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