



STATE OF MAINE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
 MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
 152 STATE HOUSE STATION
 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



JANET T. MILLS
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12 March 2020

To all Maine Authorized Training Centers,

In light of the recent outbreak and expansion of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), the Maine CDC has been preparing for the potential spread of the virus in Maine. With information from the US CDC, they have been keeping the state government and residents updated with the latest information to aid residents in containing the spread and reducing cases of infection from the virus. The World Health Organization has now classified COVID-19 as a pandemic as of Wednesday, 11 Mar 2020. On Thursday, 12 Mar 2020, the first case of COVID-19 infection was diagnosed in the state of Maine. In conjunction with the state EMS Medical Directors, the Department of Public Safety and the Maine CDC, Maine EMS has been working on measures to protect EMS providers and patients from the spread and infection of COVID-19.

In support of this effort, **effective 1700 hrs, 13 March 2020**, Maine EMS is instituting the following measures until further notice:

1. All hospital and/or medical facility clinical experience activities for EMS students for the purpose of observation, clinical or field experience or for patient contact hours are suspended.
2. All EMS field unit ride-along experience activities for the purpose of observation, clinical or field experience or for patient contact hours are suspended.

This directive applies to the following:

- All Maine EMS authorized training centers and their training activities whether in-state or out-of-state.
- All out of state training centers who send students to any hospital/medical facility, or EMS response service for observation, clinical/field experience or patient contact hours within the State of Maine.
- This includes all levels of courses leading to licensure, as well as any courses or other EMS training for the purpose of continuing education involving patient observation, clinical or field experience or patient contact, for which CEHs would normally be awarded.

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Maine EMS reminds training centers that some guidance regarding training program contingencies can be found in both the Maine EMS Training Center Standards and in the 2009 National EMS Education standards. Guidance specifically regarding programs leading to Paramedic licensure can be found in “CoAEMSP Statement- COVID -19” which can be found on their website, or at this link: <https://coaemsp.org/>

Maine EMS will provide regular updates biweekly and as developments occur. Notification will also be sent to training centers once clinical experiences in hospitals, medical facilities, and EMS services can resume. Questions regarding this directive may be directed to Maine EMS.

Respectfully,

Christopher M. Azevedo, BS, NRP, I/C
EMS Education Coordinator, Maine EMS

Cc: New Hampshire State EMS Office
Massachusetts State EMS Office
Vermont State EMS Office