



## COVID-19: Pandemic Operations Plan for Conducting NAEMT Courses

Recognizing the challenges faced by NAEMT training centers and faculty in providing needed continuing education during the COVID-19 pandemic, NAEMT authorizes training centers to adopt the following formats and procedures in conducting NAEMT courses until the pandemic has abated, effective Monday, March 23, 2020:

### Course format:

- NAEMT training centers will be allowed to offer all didactic content through synchronized (real time) virtual classrooms using online platforms such as Zoom, GoToMeeting, Skype for Business, and Webex. (For those faculty who are not familiar with these platforms, NAEMT will be providing tutorials on how to conduct courses using web-based tools.)
- The skills portion of the courses may be conducted using a 1:1 instructor-to-student ratio if needed (or other small group size based on current federal, state/provincial and/or local restrictions). Approved NAEMT instructors may monitor students completing the skills portion of the courses at a training center, an EMS agency, or other venue deemed appropriate by the Training Center Representative. If necessary, instructors may also use video (live or recorded) to monitor students on the skills portion of the courses. Use of video for student monitoring should be documented on the monitoring form.
- Testing can be conducted for small numbers of students in a room with ample space between each student, provided that the test is proctored by an NAEMT instructor. If restrictions do not allow for this format, there are services available such as [Proctoru.com](https://proctoru.com) that training centers can access for test proctoring. Training centers that utilize learning management systems (LMS) can also use their systems to offer NAEMT course tests. NAEMT is also working to secure a widely compatible test generator and looking at online testing services as well.
- Hybrid courses, available in English for Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS), Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC), and PreHospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), are also



encouraged. This format allows students to take the didactic portion of the course and the written test online, followed by the skills portion of the course which may be conducted as described above.

In addition, NAEMT will make the following **exceptions for instructors and students** in light of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Instructor candidate monitoring – NAEMT will provide a six-month extension through the end of 2020 for instructor candidates to meet the requirement to have taken their provider course within 12 months of being monitored. Further, NAEMT will allow instructor candidates to be monitored by Affiliate Faculty using video monitoring (either live or recorded). Affiliate Faculty will need to indicate on the Instructor Candidate Monitoring Form if they monitor a candidate using this format. This exception will be reevaluated at the end of the year.
- Provider status – We recognize that some agencies require their EMTs and paramedics to maintain current provider status for PHTLS, AMLS, EPC, TCCC and/or TECC. NAEMT will provide a three-month extension on provider status and will reevaluate this extension as needed.

Finally, NAEMT has made a **permanent change** in our policy covering requirements to maintain instructor status:

- Instructor status requirement – NAEMT has revised its general (ongoing) policy on maintaining instructor status as noted below:
  1. *For AMLS, EPC, PHTLS, TCCC, and TECC – instructors will be required to teach at least one course per **year**, and complete the instructor update for each new edition.*
  2. *For AHDR, EMS Safety, EVOS, GEMS, PEPL and PTEP – instructors will be required to teach at least one course per **edition**, and complete the instructor update for each new edition.*
  3. *Course refreshers, hybrid courses and derivative courses (AMLS Basics, PHTLS for First Responders, TECC-LEO, and Advanced GEMS) may count as the minimum one course.*

NAEMT invites our faculty to offer other suggestions for conducting NAEMT courses during the pandemic at [education@naemt.org](mailto:education@naemt.org).

We understand how challenging this time is for our providers and our faculty. We sincerely thank our faculty for their commitment to their students and for their continued support of



NAEMT education.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all EMS practitioners and their families, colleagues, students and patients as we work together to respond to and contain the pandemic.