

Interim Guidance on Extensions for AHA Instructor & Provider Cards during COVID-19 Outbreak



CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

March 13, 2020

With precautionary measures being taken globally to control the spread of COVID-19, and many countries and regions delaying training, the AHA has received questions from our Training Network about extensions, or “grace periods” for expirations of AHA Instructor and Provider Course Completion Cards.

Please see the AHA’s recommendations below, and please disseminate to anyone who has a business need for this information (e.g., students, employers, medical or safety regulators, etc.).

For Instructor Cards:

- In cases where an AHA Instructor cannot conduct training due to COVID-19 (e.g., the Training Center is in an area with widespread COVID-19 cases), the AHA will allow an extension of the validity of the instructor card for 60 days.
- Management of this extension, and any record-keeping, will be the responsibility of the Training Center.
- This allowance may be extended based on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat.

For AHA Provider Cards:

- The AHA recommends that employers and regulatory bodies consider extending recognition of an AHA Provider Card beyond its renewal date, for up to 60 days. However, please know that it is ultimately up to the discretion of employers and regulatory bodies who require current AHA Provider Cards to consider allowing extensions during this time.
- The AHA recommends considering extensions of up to 60 days, but this recommendation could be extended based on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat.

AHA Policy on Expired Cards (included in AHA Instructor Manuals)

- *Excerpt from ACLS Instructor Manual:*
“Students who present an expired provider card...may be allowed to take an update course but will not be given the option of remediation. These students will need to complete the entire provider course if they cannot successfully meet the full course completion requirements when tested. If the student fails any skills test, he or she should be referred back to the full ACLS Course.”
- Over the next 60 days, for providers whose cards have expired due to inability to complete training during the COVID-19 outbreak, the AHA will allow the Instructor to provide remediation during update courses.

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- This allowance may be extended based on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat.

General Guidance for CPR Training during COVID-19 Outbreak

As a reminder, the AHA advises all AHA Training Centers and Instructors to follow the existing recommendations outlined on the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) website](#), and in the U.S., refer to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) recommendations, as well as the guidance of national, state, and local public health authorities, which will have the most up-to-date facts and will provide information on basic protective measures against COVID-19.

For more information on COVID-19 guidance to the AHA Training Network, please visit the Training Updates section of the AHA Instructor Network. Please continue to check your email and notifications placed on the [AHA Instructor Network](#) or [CPRverify](#) regularly for possible updates to AHA training policies.

NEW Interim Guidance on Extensions for AHA Cards during COVID-19 Outbreak

1 message

American Heart Association <email@heartemail.org>

Fri, Mar 13, 2020 at 1:59 PM

Reply-To: American Heart Association <reply-71823982-8025412_HTML-1001687712-10086800-0@heartemail.org>

To: mbellis1213@gmail.com

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Guidance for AHA Training Network on Card Expirations and Extensions during COVID-19 Outbreak

The AHA has issued new interim guidance for the US and international AHA Training Network to address questions regarding extensions for AHA Instructor and Provider Cards during the COVID-19 public health threat. This guidance also includes an amendment to the AHA policy on renewal/update options for students whose card has expired or will expire as a result of COVID-19.

Please review [this interim guidance](#) in the [Additional Tools>Training Updates section of the AHA Instructor Network](#) (for US Training Network) or on [CPRverify](#) (for international Training Network).

Please continue to check your email and notifications placed on the [AHA Instructor Network](#) or [CPRverify](#) regularly for the latest information and resources on COVID-19 for the AHA Training Network.

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American Heart Association
Attn: Email Subscriptions Group
7272 Greenville Ave. Dallas, TX 75231

Training Memo: Optional Instructional Changes during COVID-19 Outbreak



CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

Date of Release	March 10, 2020 <i>NOTE: This AHA Training Memo supersedes any previous AHA Training Memo released regarding COVID-19.</i>
Purpose	To minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission during AHA CPR courses. To provide additional flexibility, as needed, to the American Heart Association's Training Centers (TCs) and instructors for training during heightened precautions for COVID-19. This applies to U.S.-based TCs as well as international TCs.
Background	The recent outbreak of COVID-19 has generated questions and concerns about potential exposure during CPR training. The AHA advises all AHA TCs and Instructors to follow the existing recommendations outlined on the World Health Organization (WHO) website , and in the U.S., refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, as well as the proposals and suggestions of national public health authorities, which will have the most up to date facts and will provide information on basic protective measures against COVID-19. The AHA's chief concern is the health and safety of the AHA Training Network and those being trained, and we are continuously monitoring all the latest developments of the outbreak worldwide. The best protection from infection from COVID-19 is to follow recommended procedures.
General Information	<p>AHA TCs are responsible for following the instructions from their local government or public health authority as it relates to actions around COVID-19 (the disease caused by a new coronavirus). In accordance with the guidelines released by local government, the leadership of the TC should use discretion to evaluate the risk of disease transmission in their area before organizing any training events and take necessary precautions to avoid transmission.</p> <p>Recommendations: If you are in an affected area, or have concerns about disease transmission, you are required to make the following adjustments to course management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Follow suggestions of the national public health as well as state and local authorities concerning closures and public gatherings- Follow the WHO updated recommendations for international travel and health especially in affected areas- Follow the AHA recommendations for equipment decontamination during CPR training with the following additional requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o All participants should practice good hygiene, including handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after the course, and before and after snack or meal breaks