

**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of
Health Service Regulation North Carolina Office of EMS**

Current Events – Talking Points – May 2021

General Info:

- Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, EMS Expo 2021 has been cancelled.
- The updated platform in NC Terms that replaced Serv-NC is functional. All staff should create an account in NC TERMS if one does not exist at <https://terms.ncem.org/TRS/home.do>.
- We would like to encourage EMS agencies and EMS professionals to utilize the TERMS (Training, Exercise Registration and Management System) website to find training and education on a number of topics including Ambulance strike team, ICS classes, disaster related education and a host of other topics. The website is terms.ncem.org.
- Reminder to report EMS violence through Continuum. The reporting portal address is <https://www.carvnc.com/>
- OEMS currently has rules revisions that are published in the registry. We are working through received comments to make necessary revisions. These are related to Trauma, Enforcement and Education Rules.
- Please take time to review your staffing rosters and ensure new hires have a valid credential and existing employees/members have their credentials up to date.
- The NC EMS Administrators Association, NC Association of Rescue and EMS and NCOEMS have collaborate to create a PSA directed towards EMS Professionals encouraging them to take the COVID-19 vaccination. The video can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAoSlZZEOA&t=19s>

Education:

- Anyone practicing EMS in North Carolina must possess a NCOEMS Credential
 - Practicing without a NCOEMS credential is a rule violation
 - Agencies using Non-Credentialed individuals and collecting CMS funds may be in violation of CMS rules
- 2021 Education Guidelines have been posted to the website
 - EMT, AEMT, Paramedic and A&P guidelines become effective January 1st with an implementation date no later than July 1st
 - EMR July 1st

COVID Related

- No additional Credential extension will be granted at this time
- Current and Future EMS Courses
 - We are still allowing Institutions to utilize creative ways to meet the required clinical/field time and required skills
 - AEMT and Paramedics students to obtain a maximum of 50% of their skills and field time as the second person of an ambulance crew
 - Modifications must be submitted to and approved by our office

Virtual NCOEMS Instructor Workshops

Effective April 1st, 2021

*****Please Read Entire Document*****

The North Carolina Office of EMS is pleased to announce the launch of the Virtual NCOEMS Instructor Workshop. The Virtual NCOEMS Instructor Workshop will be offered for Initial Instructor Applicants until further notice. The Virtual Instructor Workshop will consist of (2) two sections, an online component and a synchronous Instructor Workshop.

Section one:

The online NCOEMS Instructor Workshop Pre-Course, which may be accessed from the NC Training-Exercise-Response Management System (NC TERMS) page or by visiting <https://terms.ncem.org/TRS/>. This course will provide the necessary pre-course work for the NCOEMS Instructor Workshop. The student must complete all required assignments prior to enrolling in an Instructor Workshops. At the end of this course the student will receive a certificate of successful completion which is required in order to attend the NCOEMS Instructor Workshop. **This section will be open in TERMS by April 1, 2021.**

Section two:

Synchronous Instructor Workshop, which will consist of NCOEMS Staff and a maximum of 25 Initial Instructor Applicants. Pre-registration will be required and entrance into the synchronous Instructor Workshop will require the NCOEMS Instructor Workshop Pre-Course certificate. Any individual not pre-registering or possessing a completion certificate from the NCOEMS Instructor Workshop Pre-Course will not be allowed to attend. Workshops will be listed in Continuum and will lock enrollment 5 days prior to the scheduled Workshop.

Upon completion of the online and synchronous Instructor Workshop components, the applicant must complete the post-test with a satisfactory grade of 80. The post-test may be accessed from the NC Training-Exercise-Response Management System (NC TERMS) page or by visiting <https://terms.ncem.org/TRS/>. This section will become active once the Virtual Workshop has completed. Anyone scoring below 80 on the post-test exam will be required to complete the synchronous Instructor Workshop and post-test again.

Workshops will be listed in Continuum and will lock enrollment 3 days prior to the scheduled Workshop. Enrolled individuals meeting the pre-requisites will be sent a link for the Virtual Workshop. Tentatively, the following dates and times have been selected for Virtual Workshops:

- o Workshop #394 (9am- May 11th, 2021)
- o Workshop #395 (1pm- May 20th, 2021)
- o Workshop #396 (9am- June 1st, 2021)

If you have any questions, please contact your respective Regional Education Specialist.

Logistics:

- The OEMS continues to conduct virtual permitting inspections. Thank you for your cooperation during this new process. We are working on a process that will allow us to return to in person inspections soon. We will send out updated information as this develops.
- Reminder that vehicles need to be added to the agency's Continuum profile prior to notifying Regional OEMS staff that vehicles are ready for inspection
 - o Simply adding the vehicle to Continuum does not notify OEMS that the vehicle is ready although it automatically assigns the status of "Inspection Pending" – an e-mail or phone call needs to be made to notify OEMS and schedule the inspection.
- Missing ambulance permit windshield stickers need to be replaced whenever there is damage to the sticker or a replacement windshield is installed in a vehicle. A lot of vehicles are being spotted without inspection stickers in the windshield.
- OEMS IS AWARE OF MEDICATION SHORTAGES. The FDA has issued some guidelines related to extended shelf life for medications that are EMS related. We will allow for extended shelf life based on the FDA's listing of lot numbers. EMS agencies are encouraged to visit www.fda.gov/drugs to download the listing of approved lot numbers for extended shelf life.
- New Remount Standards from CAAS can be found online for review and comment. CAAS Draft GVS V2.0

Systems:

- **RSI Systems**
Reminder that EMS Airway Evaluation Forms must be reviewed and signed by the EMS Medical Director within 14 days of the Drug Assisted Airway attempts.
- Ketamine has been approved by the NCMB. When administered outside of the DAI Protocol (AR3), an EMS System must be approved by the State Medical Director and follow the guidelines found in Medical Policy 2 Ketamine Program Requirements which contains special reporting requirements.

Compliance:

- All Compliance Staff remains working remotely due to COVID 19. Email is the best way to reach them.

- Due to staffing changes, the duties of the Compliance Unit have shifted. They are:
 - Gloria Currie are doing all legal recs for all levels. Gloria.Currie@dhhs.nc.gov
 - Toshiba will be doing EMD renewals as well as the Case Review Panel process. Toshiba.Oates@dhhs.nc.gov
 - Paige and Melynda doing the investigation administrative process, new military equivalency credential and overall general administrative questions. Please contact her with general questions (have my fingerprints been received, has my Case Review Panel docs been received, when is the next Disciplinary Committee, I didn't get my investigation letter, etc.).
 - Paige Stevens continues with all money issues, DNR/MOST forms, fingerprint follow ups, out of state reciprocity forms and overall general administrative questions. Paige.Stevens@dhhs.nc.gov
- Two new staff members: Tiffany Snipes (Tiffany.Snipes@dhhs.nc.gov) handling administrative work for the disciplinary process and Donna Strickland (Donna.Strickland@dhhs.nc.gov) handling legal recs.
- If administrators have a need for an expedited review through the SBI, please contact Melynda.Swindells@dhhs.nc.gov to discuss.
- New military equivalency credentials are available for review since 12-1-20. Information is posted on the OEMS website and the application is ready since 12-1-20.
- NC EMS Disciplinary Committee will remain remote (via Teams) until at least through July 2021. Further decisions will be made in August 2021 and are dependent on State COVID restrictions and the nature of the pandemic.
- Case Review Panel and Disciplinary Committee dates for the rest of the year:

Month	Case Review Panel	Disciplinary Committee
May	5/6/2021	5/25/2021
June	6/3/2021	6/29/2021
July	7/1/2021	7/27/2021
August	8/5/2021	8/31/2021

September	9/2/2021	9/28/2021
October	10/7/2021	10/26/2021
November	11/4/2021	11/30/2021
December	12/2/2021	12/14/2021

HPP:

- The Office of EMS (OEMS) continues to participate as part of the DHHS Incident Management Team (DHHS IMT) in response to the COVID-19 Outbreak to support efforts specifically related to Healthcare Stakeholders. Current operations are focused on:
 - Working as part of the DHHS IMT in developing guidance/plans, providing situational awareness, and sharing information, to ensure that the concerns of the healthcare community are considered and addressed.
 - Supporting the ordering, receipt, storage, vetting, and delivery of Personal Protective Equipment essential to maintain healthcare and associated operations statewide through the OEMS Support Cell and the Mocksville II Warehouse.
 - Managing the recruitment, onboarding, training, and deployment of healthcare professionals as members of Long-Term Care Strike Teams, or individually, to support the operations of Long-Term Care facilities affected by COVID-19 statewide through the LTC Staffing Team
 - Providing technical support statewide to providers regarding distribution and administration of COVID-19 therapeutics.
 - Providing planning, personnel, and material support, statewide, for vaccine allocation, distribution, and vaccination operations.

Except for the Mocksville II Warehouse operations, most OEMS staff members are supporting these operations remotely instead of from the Wright Building or the State EOC. Communications concerning these operations should be made through OEMSSupportCell@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-855-4688

- During the month of April, OEMS Support Cell and Mocksville II Warehouse staff processed 564 requests for personal protective equipment (PPE) from healthcare and non-healthcare facilities across the state. These efforts resulted in the coordinated delivery of 2.9

million pieces of PPE with times from orders received to shipped within 1.1 days for healthcare facilities and 1.5 days for non-healthcare facilities.

- The LTC Staffing Team received 2 requests for emergency staffing from long term care facilities in the month of April. There are currently 0 active facilities being staffed/pending.
- Vaccine Staffing Team has over 700 personnel submitted to DHHS/Temp Solutions for onboarding. About 350 have completed the full hiring process, training, and are ready for deployment.
- Work continues to ensure the MDH FORTS units are ready for deployment. The MDH has received the 53 ft drop deck trailer and a connecting boot is being constructed by DLX. Plans are underway to upgrade the current Mobile Medical Unit to a 5-bed emergency department. MDH staff also continue to support the Mocksville II Warehouse as needed.
- ASPR has released the BP3 Continuation Funding Guidance and our program was level funded. HPP staff will be working to complete application requirements, finalize Healthcare Coalition workplans and budgets to submit to ASPR by the June 2021 deadline. Contracts for the lead hospital of each healthcare coalitions are under development with a proposed effective date of July 1, 2021.
- The NPRP (National Pediatric Readiness Project) survey of all NC hospitals has launched.
- EMSC carryover funding was used to purchase three (3) Sim Junior manikins and Sim Pads for distribution to Healthcare Coalitions (HCCs): SHPR, DHPC, and MAHPC. The manikins will be delivered to the HCCs next month and, after set-up and training occurs, will be available for training that will be offered to prehospital and hospital providers.
- Important reminders:
 - Utilize the agency Shift Duty Officer [(919) 855-4687/DHSR.NCOEMS.SDO@dhhs.nc.gov] contact information for emergent events or incidents that affect your regions and/or counties

Trauma:

OEMS has re-advertised for a new Trauma Program Manager. The posting closes mid-March and we hope to conduct interviews after applications have been forwarded to us from HR. If you have any trauma related questions, please reach out to Mckenzie.Beamer@dhhs.nc.gov or Chuck.Lewis@dhhs.nc.gov

DATES TO REMEMBER:

*Stay safe everyone. Thank you for all you do!