

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner




Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
OEMS COMMUNICATIONS STATEMENT 19-09

Date: September 24, 2019

To: EMS Instructors
Applicants for Initial Certification or Licensure
Applicants for Certification or Licensure by Endorsement

From: Raffaella Coler, RN, MEd, Paramedic 
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

Re: Mental Health First Aid Certification – Effective January 1, 2020

[Public Act 19-191](#) (see section 10 on page 15-18) requires that beginning on January 1, 2020, any person applying for initial certification as an emergency medical responder (EMR), emergency medical technician (EMT), advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT) or initial licensure as a paramedic must submit evidence to this Department with their application that they have completed mental health first aid training as part of a program provided by and instructor certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health. This Department neither approves or nor regulates instructors of this Mental Health First Aid program.

This act also applies to persons applying for certification or licensure based on endorsement from another state (sometimes called reciprocity). **This act DOES NOT apply to renewing EMR, EMT, AEMT certificates or paramedic licenses.**

The relevant portion of Public Act 19-191 is attached to this message.

Effective January 1, 2020, any application that does not include such evidence of training will not be processed and certification or licensure will not be issued.



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Excerpt from Public Act 19-191

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Sec. 10. Section 20-206mm of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

(a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, an applicant for a license as a paramedic shall submit evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner of Public Health that the applicant has successfully (1) completed a paramedic training program approved by the commissioner, [and] (2) for applicants applying on and after January 1, 2020, completed mental health first aid training as part of a program provided by an instructor certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health, and (3) passed an examination prescribed by the commissioner.

(b) An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant (1) is licensed or certified as a paramedic in another state or jurisdiction

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whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are substantially similar to or higher than those of this state and that the applicant has no pending disciplinary action or unresolved complaint against him or her, or (2) (A) is currently licensed or certified as a paramedic in good standing in any New England state, New York or New Jersey, (B) has completed an initial training program consistent with the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards, as promulgated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the paramedic scope of practice model conducted by an organization offering a program that is recognized by the national emergency medical services program accrediting organization, [and] (C) for applicants applying on or after January 1, 2020, has completed mental health first aid training as part of a program provided by an instructor certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health, and (D) has no pending disciplinary action or unresolved complaint against him or her.

(c) Any person who is certified as an emergency medical technician-paramedic by the Department of Public Health on October 1, 1997, shall be deemed a licensed paramedic. Any person so deemed shall renew his license pursuant to section 19a-88 for a fee of one hundred fifty dollars.

(d) [The commissioner may issue an emergency medical technician certificate,] On or after January 1, 2020, each person seeking certification as an emergency medical responder, [certificate] emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician [certificate to an applicant who presents] shall apply to the department on forms prescribed by the commissioner. Applicants for certification shall comply with the following requirements: (1) For initial certification, an applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant [(1) is currently certified as an emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder, or advanced emergency medical technician in good standing in any New

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England state, New York or New Jersey, (2)] (A) has completed an initial training program consistent with the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards, as promulgated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the [emergency medical technician,] emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician curriculum, [or advanced emergency medical technician, and (3) has no pending disciplinary action or unresolved complaint against him or her] (B) has passed the examination administered by the national organization for emergency medical certification for an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician as necessary for the type of certification sought by the applicant or an examination approved by the department, (C) has completed mental health first aid training as part of a program provided by an instructor certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health, and (D) has no pending disciplinary action or unresolved complaints against such applicant, (2) a certificate issued under this subsection shall be renewed once every two years in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88 upon presentation of evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant (A) has successfully completed continuing education for an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician as required by the national organization for emergency medical certification or as approved by the department, or (B) presents a current certification as an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician from the national organization for emergency medical certification, or (3) for certification by endorsement from another state, an applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant (A) (i) is currently certified as an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician in good standing by a state that maintains certification or licensing requirements that the

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commissioner determines are equal to or greater than those in this state, or (ii) holds a current certification as an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician from the national organization for emergency medical certification, and (B) has completed mental health first aid training as part of a program provided by an instructor certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health.

(e) An emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician or emergency medical services instructor shall be recertified every [three] two years. For the purpose of maintaining an acceptable level of proficiency, each emergency medical technician who is recertified for a [three-year] two-year period shall complete thirty hours of refresher training approved by the commissioner or meet such other requirements as may be prescribed by the commissioner. The refresher training or other requirements shall include, but not be limited to, training in Alzheimer's disease and dementia symptoms and care.

(f) The commissioner may issue a temporary emergency medical technician certificate to an applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that (1) the applicant was certified by the department as an emergency medical technician prior to becoming licensed as a paramedic pursuant to section 20-206ll, or (2) the applicant's certification as an emergency medical technician has expired and the applicant's license as a paramedic has become void pursuant to section 19a-88. Such temporary certificate shall be valid for a period not to exceed one year and shall not be renewable.

(g) An applicant who is issued a temporary emergency medical technician certificate pursuant to subsection (f) of this section may, prior to the expiration of such temporary certificate, apply to the department for: (1) Renewal of such person's paramedic license, giving such person's name in full, such person's residence and business

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address and such other information as the department requests, provided the application for license renewal is accompanied by evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant was under the medical oversight of a sponsor hospital, as those terms are defined in section 19a-175, on the date the applicant's paramedic license became void for nonrenewal; or (2) recertification as an emergency medical technician, provided the application for recertification is accompanied by evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant completed emergency medical technician refresher training approved by the commissioner not later than one year after issuance of the temporary emergency medical technician certificate. The department shall recertify such person as an emergency medical technician without the examination required for initial certification specified in regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 20-206oo.

[(h) The commissioner may issue an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician certificate to an applicant for certification by endorsement who presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant (1) is currently certified as an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician in good standing by a state that maintains licensing requirements that the commissioner determines are equal to, or greater than, those in this state, (2) has completed an initial department-approved emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician training program that includes written and practical examinations at the completion of the course, or a program outside the state that adheres to national education standards for the emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician scope of practice and that includes an examination, and (3) has no pending disciplinary action or unresolved complaint against

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him or her.]

[(i)] (h) The commissioner may issue an emergency medical service instructor certificate to an applicant who presents (1) evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant is currently certified as an emergency medical technician in good standing, (2) documentation satisfactory to the commissioner, with reference to national education standards, regarding qualifications as an emergency medical service instructor, (3) a letter of endorsement signed by two instructors holding current emergency medical service instructor certification, (4) documentation of having completed written and practical examinations as prescribed by the commissioner, and (5) evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant has no pending disciplinary action or unresolved complaints against him or her.

[(j)] (i) Any person certified as an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician or emergency medical services instructor pursuant to this chapter and the regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-20600 whose certification has expired may apply to the Department of Public Health for reinstatement of such certification as follows: (1) If such certification expired one year or less from the date of the application for reinstatement, such person shall complete the requirements for recertification specified in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-20600; (2) if such recertification expired more than one year but less than three years from the date of application for reinstatement, such person shall complete the training required for recertification and the examination required for initial certification specified in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-20600; or (3) if such certification expired three or more years from the date of application for reinstatement, such person shall complete the requirements for initial certification set forth in this section. Any certificate issued pursuant to

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this section shall remain valid for ninety days after the expiration date of such certificate and become void upon the expiration of such ninety-day period.

[(k)] (j) The Commissioner of Public Health shall issue an emergency medical technician certification to an applicant who is a member of the armed forces or the National Guard or a veteran and who (1) presents evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant holds a current certification as a person entitled to perform similar services under a different designation by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, or (2) satisfies the regulations promulgated pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 19a-179. Such applicant shall be exempt from any written or practical examination requirement for certification.

[(l)] (k) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces and "armed forces" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103.

Sec. 11. Section 19a-127q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

(a) On and after January 1, 2019, any hospital licensed pursuant to chapter 368v or emergency medical services personnel, as defined in section 20-206jj, that treats a patient for an overdose of an opioid drug, as defined in section 20-14o, shall report such overdose to the Department of Public Health in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health.