

## CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

April 2, 2020

To minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission during AHA courses, the AHA will temporarily allow Training Centers to conduct virtual training for cognitive learning and/or hands-on skills under the requirements described below. Virtual training methods may be used until social distancing guidelines for reducing the transmission of COVID-19 outbreak are no longer in effect.

To participate in any of the virtual training options described below, the Training Center Coordinator must first send an email notification to

- [trainingcenter@heart.org](mailto:trainingcenter@heart.org) (for US-based Training Centers)
- [eccinternational@heart.org](mailto:eccinternational@heart.org) (for international Training Centers)

When considering virtual training, please note the following:

- All other AHA requirements for conducting the training, as described in the course Instructor Manual and Training Center Agreement, must be fulfilled. Hands-on skills practice and testing are required. All COVID-19-related guidance on the AHA Instructor Network website regarding equipment decontamination and instructional changes must be followed where applicable.
- The Instructor conducting the virtual training must be aligned with the Training Center and be current in the discipline being taught and course card(s) being provided.
- Upon request, the Training Center must provide course rosters to the AHA for all classes conducted with virtual training.
- All class recordings, course videos, and exams posted to an LMS or other secure site must be taken down when the COVID-19 emergency ends.

**See below for specific requirements regarding cognitive learning, hands-on skills practice, and exams:**

### 1. Cognitive learning

- a. An AHA Instructor may administer the cognitive learning portion of the course virtually in either of the following ways:
  - i. The Instructor may conduct a live course, including all required course videos, via web conferencing software while students watch and discuss remotely.
  - ii. The Training Center may video-record a course led by an AHA Instructor, including all required course videos, and post the recording for students to view on a learning management system (LMS) or other secure site.
- b. The Training Center may digitize and place the course videos on its LMS or other secure site for students to watch. Each Instructor or Training Site offering virtual training must have their own AHA course DVD or access to streaming videos.
- c. The site must limit viewing of any course recordings or course videos to students registered for the relevant course and Training Center staff.

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### 2. Course exam

- a. An AHA Instructor may administer the course exam virtually in either of the following ways:
  - i. The exam questions may be posted on the Training Center's LMS for students in the course to complete electronically.
  - ii. The Instructor may read the exam questions aloud to the students while monitoring the students via live video, to confirm the students' identity and prevent open discussion during the exam. At the end of the exam (or a checkpoint determined by the Instructor), students may email their responses to exam questions to the Instructor for grading.
- b. No alterations may be made to the exam content.
- c. Exams may not be emailed to students.

### 3. Hands-on skills practice and testing

- a. A feedback device meeting the AHA's requirements for skills practice and testing must be used by students.
- b. An AHA Instructor should observe skills practice and testing via live video.
- c. The sound and camera positioning for virtual testing must be adequate for the Instructor to accurately assess high-quality CPR including feedback from the feedback device, student hand position, manikin chest rise, and other required skills elements. Virtual skills testing should not be used if the Instructor is unable to adequately assess high-quality CPR skills performance.
- d. During this time, it is acceptable to have only one student for activities that normally require 2 or more students. In this case, the student should be able to verbally provide instruction on what the second rescuer (or team members) should be doing in the scenario-based learning and testing stations specified in the course Lesson Plans.

#### For questions regarding virtual skills training, please contact

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