

Interim Guidance: Virtual Options for AHA Instructor Training during COVID-19



CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

January 14, 2021

General Information

To minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission during AHA courses, the AHA is temporarily amending requirements for current AHA Instructors to renew their AHA Instructor card. We are also temporarily allowing Training Centers to conduct virtual Instructor monitoring for renewing AHA Instructors and conduct virtual training for new Instructors, following the guidance below.

Virtual training methods may be used until physical distancing guidelines for reducing the transmission of COVID-19 are no longer in effect.

Exceptions for Current AHA Instructors Renewing their AHA Instructor Card:

Based on feedback that current AHA Instructors are facing challenges renewing their Instructor cards due to fewer courses being conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the AHA will temporarily extend "Special Exceptions to Teaching Requirements" outlined in the [AHA Program Administration Manual](#) to include COVID-19.

Special exceptions to teaching requirements for Instructors during COVID-19 are outlined below. Exceptions are only allowed for current Instructors in good standing.

- The requirement for Instructors to teach a minimum of 4 courses in 2 years to renew their AHA Instructor status has been amended to a requirement for Instructors to teach a minimum of 2 courses in 2 years.
NOTE: Teaching a course or skills session virtually may be counted toward this minimum requirement.
- To meet the requirement of course monitoring for renewing AHA Instructors, the AHA is allowing for virtual course monitoring, following the requirements outlined in the document, "**Instructor Virtual Course Monitoring Requirements/Best Practices and Checklist**", available on the [AHA's COVID-19 Resources for CPR Training & Resuscitation webpage](#).
- For current AHA Instructors in good standing, the AHA will allow the extension of current Instructor cards through April 30, 2021.

Options for New Instructor Training:

- AHA TCs that need to conduct training for new Instructors due to Instructor shortages in some areas may also use virtual training options, following the requirements outlined in the document, "**Instructor Virtual Course Monitoring Requirements/Best Practices and Checklist**", available on the [AHA's COVID-19 Resources for CPR Training & Resuscitation webpage](#).
- Additionally, Instructor candidates will have 10 months from the completion of their Instructor course to complete monitoring.

For questions regarding virtual training options during COVID-19, please contact

- trainingcenter@heart.org (for US-based Training Centers)
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