

# Training Memo: Change to Virtual Training Options for AHA Provider Courses



<b>Date of Release</b>	<b>April 7, 2023</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	The American Heart Association is providing updated guidance to Training Centers for conducting virtual training for AHA provider-level courses. This updated guidance includes the discontinuation of virtual training options for healthcare provider courses.
<b>General Information</b>	This Training Memo replaces and supersedes the Training Memo, “Interim Guidance: Virtual Training Options for AHA Provider Courses,” issued on August 5, 2021.
<b>Change to Allowance of Virtual Training for Healthcare Provider Courses</b>	<p><b>Effective June 1, 2023</b>, virtual training will not be allowed for healthcare provider-level courses, including BLS Provider, ACLS Provider, PALS Provider, ACLS for Experienced Providers, and PEARS Provider. This also applies to healthcare provider renewal and update courses.</p> <p>Virtual training will remain an option for Heartsaver-level courses, following the guidance outlined in the current (2020 Guidelines) Heartsaver Instructor Manual.</p>
<b>Information for Training Centers and Instructors Conducting Virtual Heartsaver Training</b>	<p>When considering Heartsaver virtual training, please note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other AHA requirements for conducting the training, as described in the Heartsaver Instructor Manual and Training Center Agreement, must be fulfilled. Hands-on skills practice and testing are required.</li> <li>• The BLS or Heartsaver Instructor conducting the virtual training must be aligned with the BLS Training Center and be current in the discipline being taught and course card(s) being issued.</li> <li>• Upon request, the BLS Training Center must provide course rosters to the AHA for all classes conducted with virtual training.</li> </ul> <p>Virtual Training Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Heartsaver courses, the student will complete the appropriate Heartsaver online course for the cognitive work.</li> <li>• If the student requires the Heartsaver written exam, the Heartsaver written exam is permitted on a Learning Management System (LMS). A second option is for the instructor to deliver the exam verbally with the students. The student would return the completed exam sheet to the instructor electronically or through the mail.</li> </ul>

# Training Memo: Change to Virtual Training Options for AHA Provider Courses



- Instructor-led, pre-recorded Heartsaver classes for student viewing are not permitted.

## Hands-on skills practice and testing

- A feedback device meeting the AHA's requirements for measuring compression rate and depth during skills practice and testing must be used by students.
- An AHA BLS or Heartsaver Instructor will observe skills practice and testing via live video.
- 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.
- A sustained loss of internet connection, visibility and/or audio will require rescheduling the skills practice and testing. The required skills practice and testing must be completed, or the session will need to be rescheduled.
- Instructors must adhere to the student to Instructor ratios in the Heartsaver Instructor Manual.
- The student must have all required equipment onsite for the virtual skills practice and testing. It is not acceptable for the Instructor to retain the equipment and ask the student to verbalize the skills.