UPDATED Interim Guidance: Virtual Training Options for AHA Provider Courses during COVID-19

CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

Updated December 15, 2020

PLEASE NOTE: Previous guidance was issued to Training Center Coordinators only on April 2, 2020, and June 11, 2020. Guidance is now expanded to include AHA Instructors; however, Instructors must receive approval from their TCC to offer virtual training options, and TCCs must inform the AHA they are offering virtual training via the process outlined below.

General Information/FAQs

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Virtual training methods may be used until physical distancing guidelines for reducing the transmission of COVID-19 are no longer in effect.

For which courses can my TC conduct virtual training?
Virtual training options apply to all provider-level courses, including BLS Provider, ACLS Provider, ACLS for Experienced Providers, PALS Provider, PEARS Provider, Heartsaver® CPR, AED, First Aid, and Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid.

How do I inform the AHA my TC will be implementing virtual training?
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 (for US-based Training Centers)
- 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 issued.
- 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.

Virtual Training Requirements
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. Instructors can provide student access to videos for their personal viewing. During this temporary allowance for virtual training, AHA Training Centers should provide students the access codes below for streaming versions of course videos, rather than digitizing AHA course videos and placing them on their own LMS sites for student viewing.

   For students to access the streaming videos via the access codes below, they must have an account with AHA's eBooks.Heart.org. You can provide students the following guidance for creating an account to view the streaming videos.

   1. Go to ebooks.heart.org and create an account
      - Click "Login" in the upper-right corner
      - On the "Sign In or Create an Account" page, click "Create an Account" (the gray button under "New User?")
      - Enter the required information and click "Continue." (A mobile number is not required, but if you enter one, a security code will be texted to that number. Enter this code and click "Continue").
      - When you've done this, you will be logged in automatically. Confirm you are logged in by checking that your email address appears under the "Login" icon in the upper-right
   2. Once you've confirmed you're logged in, enter the access code in the "Enter Access Code" field in the upper-left
   3. A confirmation message appears that the access code was accepted, and the course video will appear on your shelf
   4. Click "Watch Online"

   Once the code is entered by the student, the video will remain on their bookshelf until the videos expire (expiration timeline TBD; the AHA will provide notice before these codes expire).

ACCESS CODES:

- NEW ACLS Course Videos in Streaming Format: **ACLSVIRTUAL2020**
- NEW BLS Course Videos in Streaming Format: Access Code: **BLSVIRTUAL2020**
- NEW PALS Course Videos in Streaming Format Access Code: **PALSVIRTUAL2020**
- Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED Course Videos in Streaming Format Access Code: **HSFACPRAEDVIRTUAL**
- Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid CPR AED Course Videos in Streaming Format Access Code: **HSPEDFACPRAEDVIRTUAL**
- *Coming Soon – PEARS Course Videos in Streaming Format*

PLEASE NOTE: Training Centers are responsible for providing these codes to Instructors who may be doing virtual training. Training Centers must ensure viewing of any course videos or course recordings remains limited to students registered for the relevant course and Training Center staff. Each Instructor or Training Site offering virtual training must have their own AHA course DVD or separately purchased access to streaming videos. *The free access codes are intended for temporary student use only.*

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.

CPR & Emergency Cardiovascular Care

    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 training during COVID-19, please contact
- trainingcenter@heart.org (for US-based Training Centers)
- eccinternational@heart.org (for international Training Centers)