



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Public School Administrators
Charter School Administrators

FROM: Marybeth Casey, Office of Curriculum & Instruction *Marybeth Casey*
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SUBJECT: First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Certification Flexibility for Coaches of Extracurricular Sports in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

All coaches of extracurricular sports must hold valid first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)/automatic external defibrillator (AED) certification by completing courses from a New York State Education Department (NYSED)-approved provider, or NYSED-approved courses offered by a national provider (e.g., American Red Cross). Currently, certification courses cannot be completed entirely online because coaching candidates must demonstrate particular skills for first aid and CPR/AED certification.

First Aid and CPR/AED Certification Flexibility

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, current and prospective coaches may not be able to maintain or gain first aid and CPR/AED certification, respectively, with the limited availability of in-person certification courses. In response, the Department is providing the following additional flexibility regarding the first aid and CPR/AED certification requirements for coaches.

- **Extension.** Current coaches who previously earned first aid and/or CPR/AED certification through a course from a NYSED-approved provider, and whose certification expires between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, will have the certification expiration date extended to June 30, 2021. Coaches who earned first aid and/or CPR/AED certification through NYSED-approved courses offered by a national provider would not have the certification expiration date extended by NYSED, and must update their first aid and/or CPR/AED certification per certifying

agency requirements. For coaches who earned first aid and/or CPR/AED certification through American Red Cross course(s), possible certificate extensions are described on the [American Red Cross COVID-19 Guidance webpage](#).

- **Online Content.** For first aid and/or CPR/AED certification courses from a NYSED-approved provider, the content can continue to be taught either online and/or in-person. However, candidates must demonstrate their (psychomotor) skills in-person to earn first aid and/or CPR/AED certification. Candidates who complete NYSED-approved first aid and/or CPR/AED certification courses offered by a national provider must complete their first aid and/or CPR/AED certification per certifying agency requirements.

Automated External Defibrillator Requirement

Many students are participating in sports again as a result of the Governor's permission for high risk sports. Based on [Commissioner's Regulations section 136.4](#), the Department requires that during any intramural athletic activities of instruction, practice, and competition for students in grades 4 through 12 held at any location, public school officials and administrators responsible for such contest or event shall ensure that automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment is provided on-site and that at least one staff person certified in CPR and the use of an AED pursuant to [Public Health Law section 3000-b\(3\)\(a\)](#) is present during such contest or event to respond in case of an emergency.

Coaches who previously earned first aid and/or CPR/AED certification through a course from a NYSED-approved provider, and whose CPR/AED certification was extended as described above, do not meet the requirements of Public Health Law 3000-b(3)(a). **Therefore, schools will need to ensure that there is a staff member who holds a valid CPR/AED certificate present at all athletic events.**

Additional Information

Information about coaching courses is available on the [Athletics and Coaching webpage](#), [Valid First Aid Course for Coaching License webpage](#), and [Valid CPR Course for Coaching License webpage](#). For questions about coaching, including approved certification courses and course providers, please contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at emscurric@nysed.gov or (518) 474-5922.