



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 Outbreak

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.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, current and prospective coaches may not be able to maintain or gain first aid and CPR/AED certification, respectively, with certification courses not being held in-person. Given the lack of in-person certification courses, 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 April 30, 2021, will have the certification expiration date extended to April 30, 2021. If opportunities for in-person certification courses are not available by April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Department will revisit the extension and provide a new expiration date. 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.

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](mailto:emscurric@nysed.gov) or (518) 474-5922.