



City and County of San Francisco  
London Breed, Mayor

Department of Public Health  
Emergency Medical Services Agency

Date: April 1, 2020

To: San Francisco EMS Providers, EMTs, Paramedics

From: Andrew Holcomb  
EMS Manager  
Department of Public Health

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Holcomb".

Subject: **EMT Certifications and Paramedic Accreditations due to COVID-19 Response**

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On March 30, 2020, the EMS Authority released state guidance on EMS certifications, licensures, and accreditations based on Executive Order N-39-20 for the COVID-19 outbreak response. This memo provides local guidance for San Francisco EMS personnel and providers. The guidance from the EMS Authority is mainly focused on currently certified EMS personnel.

**EMS personnel (EMTs and Paramedics) with certifications, licenses, and local accreditations expiring in March, April, May, or June 2020 have extended expiration dates until July 31, 2020.** The state public facing registry website is being updated to reflect these changes. At this time, you will not be issued a new card to reflect this extended expiration date. Your 2-year certification cycle will remain the same based on your March, April, May, or June expiration date. The EMT skills form renewal requirement for EMT Certification is waived for the duration of the declared State of Emergency. However, to date, the Epinephrine, Glucometer, and Naloxone training is still required and several online programs are accepted for EMT renewal. Paramedics will still need to meet all Re-Accreditation requirements (ie current AHA cards and new 2 year license issued by the EMS Authority).

As part of the San Francisco EMS Agency's (EMSA) Continuity of Operations plan, EMSA remains open for business to process EMT Certifications and Paramedic Accreditations. **However, EMSA would request use of online renewal forms and/or DocuSign to process Applications to maximize social distancing.** You can visit our website listed below or email [emsacertifications@sfdph.org](mailto:emsacertifications@sfdph.org) for further information.

<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/oservices/emergency/default.asp>

**As this affects approximately 450 San Francisco EMTs and Paramedics, EMSA would strongly recommend submitting EMT Renewal Applications and Paramedic Re-Accreditation Applications in advance of the expiration date listed on the card.** First-come, first served policy based on complete application remains in effect and the processing timeline from the July 2019 memo remain unchanged:

- 45 days for an EMT Application
- 30 days for a Paramedic Accreditation Application

Based on the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, please be aware information is subject to change. If you have any questions, please contact EMSA.

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