



**EMS Information Bulletin 2020-14**

**DATE:** April 7, 2020

**SUBJECT:** COVID-2019 Lapse of Registration Regulatory Exception

**TO:** All PA EMS Stakeholders

**FROM:** Dylan Ferguson, Director  
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PA Department of Health  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dylan Ferguson', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

28 PA Code § 1023.21(e) governs the process by which EMS providers with an expired certification(s) may reinstate their EMS certification.

Pursuant to the process outlined in 28 Pa Code § 1023.21(e), the requirements of provider reinstatement vary based on how long a provider's certification had been expired. A provider who had been expired for **two years or less** was required to complete all continuing education requirements that would have been required to re-register the certification on time, in addition to taking the written exam. If an EMS provider had been expired for **greater than two years**, they were required to complete the requirements listed above, as well as successfully completing the psychomotor examination. At no juncture was it a requirement to repeat the entire EMS educational program in order to re-register an expired EMS provider certification.

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is preparing and responding to the COVID-2019 pandemic, further recognizing that additional EMS providers may be required. Therefore, pursuant to the regulatory authority outlined in 28 PA Code § 1021.4(a), (c), and (f), the Department of Health Bureau of EMS is issuing the following regulatory exception to 28 PA Code § 1023.21(e) as part of a larger strategy to ensure an adequate EMS workforce to be able to respond to the COVID-2019 pandemic.

Individuals who wish to apply under this exception will need to submit a reinstatement application in the electronic EMS registry system. To ensure proper processing please select the application titled "Covid-19 Temporary". Upon the publication of this Bulletin, applications will have been made available through the electronic EMS registry system. For issues pertaining to regaining access to their account, individuals should contact their regional EMS Council.

Individuals who have questions or are interested in reinstating their EMS provider certification are directed to contact their Regional EMS Council for assistance.

Individuals with specific questions related to the following exception should contact the Bureau of EMS.

### **Exception 1**

Until October 15, 2020 an EMS provider, at any level, whose certification expired after December 31, 2014 may apply to the Department to have that certification reinstated. This reinstatement shall last until October 15, 2020. Individuals applying under this exception may do so without examination or meeting continuing education requirements.

**Please note: While not a requirement to reinstate the certification; advanced level providers and EMS agency medical directors are reminded that pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. § 8125 (b)(2)(ii), a provider at or above the advanced EMT level must undergo an assessment by an EMS agency medical director for the provider to demonstrate competency in the knowledge and skills an EMS provider must have to perform the skills within the providers scope of practice prior to performing as an EMS provider at the AEMT level or above.**

Any individual who wishes to retain EMS certification after October 15, 2020 may do so by completing the requirements outlined in [EMSIB 2020-05 Issued Regulatory Exceptions to the Lapse of Registration Process](#) within the timeframes prescribed therein.

### **Instructions to Apply:**

1. Log in to the PA EMS Registry
2. Under the “Manage My Certifications” dropdown select “Covid-19 Temporary”
3. Answer the Criminal History/Disciplinary Actions
4. Read the acknowledgement and Check the Box on the Release and Consent Tab
5. Click Submit on the bottom of the General Information Tab
  - a. Your application will be reviewed and processed by the Bureau of EMS