



REGULATORY/ MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES

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March 31, 2020

To: Orange County EMT Training Programs
Orange County Paramedic Training Programs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHS', is written to the right of the 'To:' field.

FROM: Carl H. Schutz, MD – OCEMS Medical Director

SUBJECT: COVID-19 DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY EMT/PARAMEDIC TRAINING

On March 30, 2020, the California EMS Authority (EMSA), issued the following guidance for EMT and Paramedic Training Programs, which supersedes correspondence #3716 sent on March 19, 2020 to EMT training programs. For the duration for the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency EMT and/or Paramedic training programs shall:

- a. Allow for the use of high-fidelity simulation in place of the 10 clinical contacts for the purposes of training and graduating EMT students.
- b. Allow for the use of high-fidelity simulation in place of 20 of a paramedics required 40 ALS contacts during the field internship phase of training.
- c. Suspend EMT skills exams for certification.
- d. Inform paramedic students in writing of the need to extend clinical and/or field internship placement timelines with an estimated time of doing so. if they are unable to complete clinical and/or field internship.

OCEMS understands that there may be unique situations that training programs will encounter as a result of these new rules. If the State guidance causes significant problems you are unable to resolve, please don't hesitate to reach out to OCEMS. We may be able to work with you to solve your issues.

CHS:do#3720