

March 20, 2020

Re: COVID-19 and implications for first aid, audiometry and spirometry training agency providers

COVID-19 is an unprecedented public health emergency. Guidance on COVID-19 is changing rapidly. The latest information can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>.

Training agencies with courses aimed at health care professionals should postpone these courses until further notice. As well, training agencies who continue to operate training courses should institute flexible cancellation and rebooking policies and implement a process to notify participants not to attend training sessions if they are feeling unwell or have been asked to self-isolate.

Alberta's Occupational Health and Safety Program is flexible concerning certificate expirations for workplace first aid, audiometric technician and pulmonary function technician certifications.

- Expiration dates for health care providers holding existing advanced, standard or emergency workplace first aid certifications or audiometric technician/pulmonary function technician¹ certifications are extended immediately until further notice.
- Other first aiders, pulmonary function technicians or audiometric technicians who are unable to recertify their training prior to certificate expiry will have their certificate expirations extended to allow them to recertify at a later opportunity. Examples of circumstances that may require individuals to recertify at a later opportunity include but are not limited to:
 - they are ill,
 - they have been asked to self-isolate,
 - they are over the age of 50,
 - they have a medical condition that would pre-dispose to complications of COVID-19 infection,
 - they would need to travel to access a training course, or
 - they are unable to access a training course due to reduced availability of training courses or child care commitments.

¹ As defined in the OHS Code. This should not be confused with pulmonary function technicians performing diagnostic pulmonary function testing in a health care setting.

Certificate holders will not be required to provide documentation to OHS that one of the above conditions applies, but must keep their workplace first aid, audiometric technician or pulmonary function technician certificate as proof of certification, even if the expiry date has passed (applies to certificates with expiry dates on or after March 17, 2020). OHS officers will have flexibility in accepting expired workplace first aid, audiometric technician and pulmonary function technician certificates as proof of current certification.

Training agencies wishing to offer the online portion only of blended online training courses (with the skills demonstration portion to be completed at a later time) may issue interim certifications and re-certifications. These will be accepted as evidence of first aid training but the certificates must indicate that the certifications are interim. Skills demonstration at a later time is required for full certification and recertification.

This guidance is in place until further notice.



Electronically signed

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