

## CoAEMSP Statement | COVID-19

*March 9, 2020*

Paramedic educational programs are in the process of planning and making decisions on how best to respond to the impact of COVID-19. Since the spread of COVID-19 is continuing, please know the CoAEMSP supports you as you work through this public health crisis. We will work with our programs to help them navigate issues that impact their students.

As academic institutions are in the process of planning and deciding how best to respond we encourage you to refer to these helpful resources for the latest information on coronavirus:

- [WHO](#)
- [CDC](#)
- [NHTSA's Office of EMS](#)
- [US Department of Education](#)
- [Federal Student Aid](#)
- your local public health authority for your county and state
- your local and state regulatory institutions including the State OEMS.

For Programs in the clinical or capstone field internship phase, decisions made may impact the students' graduation date. Factors to consider include but are not limited to:

- increasing the use of simulation; however, capstone field internship team leads cannot be accomplished with simulation
- meeting with the Program Medical Director to discuss options for continued learning extending the students' learning
- following your local public health authority
- following your program's and institution's protocols
- implementing the academic continuity plan for your institution
- utilizing other clinical or capstone field internship affiliations that are accepting students
- meeting your institutional requirements for potentially extended graduation for all students

If suspended from clinical and capstone field internship sites, and no other sites are available, then follow the program's action plan for students who do not meet the program's established minimums for patient contacts/skills. It will be important to document that if the institution is closed, skills labs and simulations will not be available.

Programs are encouraged to move forward using temporary, commonsense approaches without CoAEMSP guidance or approval.

If graduation dates are delayed, be prepared to provide the CoAEMSP with evidence demonstrating which sites and students were directly impacted and the length of the disruption.

**Once again, the CoAEMSP is dedicated to supporting you and your Paramedic education program in the best way possible during the COVID-19 public health crisis.**