



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Early Education and Care

TEMPORARY POLICY	
CPR and First Aid Certification Extensions During the COVID-19 Emergency	Field Operations – Exempt Emergency Child Care Programs
Effective Date: May 5, 2020	

Policy Statement

The MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) recognizes that this is a critical time for all child care staff to be trained in the life saving techniques of Pediatric CPR and First Aid. As a result, the requirement for staff to complete this training and to remain certified continues to apply. However, in recognition of the current limitations presented during the COVID-19 state of emergency, EEC sets forth the following temporary CPR and First Aid.

Expiration Dates

On March 31st, the American Heart Association (AHA) updated their [interim guidance](#) on CPR and First Aid card extensions during the COVID-19 outbreak, recommending that employers and regulatory bodies consider extending CPR and First Aid card expiration dates by an additional 120 days. In accordance with this guidance, the MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) will allow for the additional 120 days for all Department-approved CPR/ First Aid certificates expiring between March 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020.

EEC has a requirement that CPR must be renewed annually, regardless of the expiration date listed on the document certifying completion of the training course. However, for providers with CPR certifications that expire between March 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020, EEC will waive this requirement and adhere to the expiration deadlines indicated on a provider's certification card, plus 120 additional days if needed.

EEC has a requirement that First Aid training must be renewed by the expiration date listed on the document certifying completion of the training or at least every three years, whichever comes first. However, for providers with First Aid certifications that expire between March 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020, EEC will waive this requirement and adhere to the expiration deadlines indicated on a provider's certification card, plus an additional 120 days if needed.

In-Person Training Requirements

EEC has a requirement that CPR and First Aid training must include an in-person component where the participant is able to demonstrate techniques learned. However, as all in-person renewal options have been canceled due to COVID-19 social distancing guidance, the in-person training criteria will be postponed for providers with CPR or First Aid certifications expiring between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020. For these providers, Department-approved and certified online only CPR and First Aid trainings completed in the months of March, April, May, June, July, and August will be accepted to satisfy the CPR and/or First Aid re-certification requirements. For new staff (permanent or temporary) that don't

have previous First Aid or CPR trainings, online training can be utilized now with a written acknowledgement by the child care provider agreeing that they will complete the in-person skills test within 60 days from when the State of Emergency order is cancelled.

Please note that the requirement for there to be at least one person with current (not expired) certification in CPR on the premises during program hours still applies to all child care programs.