



## CAYUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency Management – Fire / Rescue – EMS – Special Operations

160 Genesee Street, Auburn NY 13021

Phone: (315)-255-1161 Fax: (315)-253-1551

Email: [ccoes@cayugacounty.us](mailto:ccoes@cayugacounty.us)



Amy Russett – Director of Emergency Services  
Harry Sherman – Deputy Director of Emergency Services  
Kim Taggerty – Administrative Officer of Emergency Services

To all Chiefs, Coordinators, Instructors, EMT Students, etc.,

As many of you are aware by now, many counties including Cayuga County have been affected by the swift moving **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)**. It is the hopes of everyone that the closing of schools and “Social Distancing” is short term, but there are reasons and absolutely some merit to these dynamic and somewhat unprecedented changes.

With that being said, the office was advised on Friday that all EMT courses are to be suspended for the next **FOUR WEEKS** effective immediately. The Emergency Management Office has been working non-stop and will continue to work with the NYS Department of Health, NYSDOH-Bureau of EMS, and the Cayuga County Health Department to work on not only short-term plans but long-term plans for classes and other upcoming programs and events. It is our feeling at this time that we as an office need to do our due diligence in abiding by these mandates and being proactive. As first responders, by nature, it is always our job to advocate for our patients and in this case now, the instructors, the students, and more importantly the families.

In order to abide by the current mandate put forth by Dr. Dinello our Course Sponsor Medical Director, the following items will be adhered to until further notice:

- Both the Original and Refresher course will be suspended for **FOUR WEEKS**. It is the hope of the doctor that within that timeframe more work will be done to deal with possible testing and some questions may be answered.
- During the upcoming week, the CIC's will be reaching out to their students with specific guidelines and time sensitive items and requirements.
- Any and all presentations will be sent to the students along with handouts, reading assignments, quizzes or whatever else the CIC feels are appropriate in order to keep the students engaged and adhering to the schedule.
- The instructors will also be meeting within the next week to discuss other alternative ways of disseminating information and staying connected with the students.
- EMT-Original students who are currently scheduled for “Field Time” and are approved by the ambulance service may continue to fulfill that obligation. Those students not scheduled yet are to cease all communications with the ambulance services. There is a wide possibility that many services have already stopped all ride outs, internships, etc. The NYSDOH-Bureau of EMS is currently working on other arrangements and solutions.
- If at any time a student feels it is necessary to drop the course due to the current situation or environmental concerns, the student may drop the course at no financial penalty to the department or the student.

It is our hopes that this is a short-term change to our normal schedules but as we have seen over the last couple weeks, and more importantly over the past weekend, the national concern over the **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)** is dynamic and still without answers. Because of this unprecedented situation, it is our responsibility to set the example for everyone.

Thank you for your assistance and patience with the current situation and feel free to contact the office, or CIC's if you have any specific questions in regards to the EMT courses.



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