The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Office of Emergency Medical Services

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**ADVISORY 20-03-04**

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Lieutenant Governor

**TO:** MA Accredited EMT Training Institutions, Licensed Ambulance Services

 and Chief Examiners

**CC:** EMCAB Members

**FROM:** W. Scott Cluett III, Director, OEMS

**DATE:** March 24, 2020

**RE:** In-Person EMS Course and Psychomotor Exam Suspensions

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Department) continues to work with federal, state and local partners on the outbreak of novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, and we continue to appreciate the essential role you have in responding to this evolving situation.

In response to the Governor’s order on social distancing and restricting gatherings, effective immediately, the Department is **suspending** all ongoing or approved EMT and Paramedic **courses** with in-person components until the Governor’s declared state of emergency is lifted.

On an emergency basis, Department-accredited EMT training institutions (ATIs) and instructors with courses in progress may transition the didactic content to online or Virtual Instructor Led delivery, subject to notification to the Department. ATIs that choose to suspend their courses and restart after the emergency declaration is lifted shall ensure students continue to meet cognitive and psychomotor criteria for course completion when courses resume.

In addition, effective immediately, the Department is **suspending** all **psychomotor examinations** scheduled or confirmed until the state of emergency is lifted. The Department will send out staggered communication separately to ATIs, Chief Examiners and exam coordinators about specific dates, along with instructions for rescheduling. It is our hope to be as flexible as possible in rescheduling, once we have a sense of when the state of emergency may be lifted.

Thank you all for your patience and flexibility. For any questions, please contact Daniel Saxe, NRP/IC, Education and Certification Coordinator, at Daniel.Saxe@state.ma.us.