

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner




Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OEMS COMMUNICATIONS STATEMENT 20-03

Date: March 6, 2020

To: EMS Instructors  
Applicants for Initial Certification or Licensure  
Applicants for Certification or Licensure by Endorsement

From: Raffaella Coler, RN, MEd, Paramedic   
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

Re: Mental Health First Aid Certification Update

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**This supersedes Communications Statement 19-09 dated September 24, 2019.**

The [2020 Supplement to the General Statutes of Connecticut](#) was released by the Legislative Commissioners' Office this week. In accordance with §20-206mm, the following requirements of Mental Health First Aid certification are effective immediately.

Any person applying for licensure as a paramedic must submit evidence to this Department with their application that they have completed mental health first aid training as part of a program provided by and instructor certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health. This applies to initial applicants and those seeking endorsement from another state.

This requirement does not apply to persons seeking certification as an emergency medical responder (EMR), emergency medical technician (EMT), advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT). The original statutory language delivered to this Department did require Mental Health First Aid certification at these levels, however the final statute, as published on the website of the Connecticut General Assembly includes the requirement only for paramedics.

Mental Health First Aid training remains approved as a continuing medical education program for all levels of EMS personnel. This office is aware that there are several pending bills in this session of the legislature that may affect this matter.



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