

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Virtual Training Options for AHA Provider Courses



As of August 5, 2021

Q: Why is the AHA changing its previous guidance for conducting virtual training?

A: The AHA initially introduced the allowance of virtual training options for provider courses in April 2020, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal was to provide ultimate flexibility and safety for our Training Network and students to continue CPR and resuscitation training. We continuously monitored virtual training practices, issuing updates in June and December 2020.

While we know COVID-19 is not behind us, the AHA realizes that more permanent guidance on virtual training is necessary to ensure consistency and quality across the global AHA Training Network.

Q: What updates have been made to the interim virtual training guidance?

A: The new virtual training solution for provider courses requires that, for consistency, all cognitive training be conducted online through HeartCode BLS/ACLS/PALS or through Heartsaver eLearning. The cognitive portion may then be followed by a virtual skills practice and testing session per the requirements outlined in the "Training Memo: Virtual Training Options for AHA Provider Courses," issued August 5, 2021.

Specifically, as stated in the August 5, 2021, Training Memo:

- Instructor-led, pre-recorded Heartsaver, BLS, ACLS, or PALS classes for student viewing are no longer permitted.
- Instructor-led Heartsaver, BLS, ACLS, and PALS classes offered through a video or web-based platform are no longer permitted.
- For BLS, ACLS, and PALS, the student will complete the appropriate HeartCode eLearning course. Then, a virtual skills session may be completed following the requirements outlined in the August 5, 2021, Training Memo.
- For Heartsaver courses, the student will complete the appropriate Heartsaver online course for the cognitive work. Then, a virtual skills session may be completed following the requirements outlined in the August 5, 2021, Training Memo.
- An AHA Instructor will observe skills practice and testing via live video.
- Instructors must adhere to the student to instructor ratios in the respective Instructor Manuals.
- The student must have all required equipment onsite for the virtual skills practice and testing. It is not acceptable for the Instructor to retain the equipment and ask the student to verbalize the skills.

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Also, please note, despite the course delivery method, ALL course completion requirements must be met according to the Instructor Manual in order to issue a course completion card (eCard).

For full details on new virtual skills session requirements for AHA provider-level courses, please thoroughly review the document, "Training Memo: Virtual Training Options for AHA Provider Courses," posted on the [AHA Instructor Network](#).

- Q: Can I still conduct virtual training for a fully Instructor-led course?
A: No, according to new guidance, virtual training should be conducted using a blended learning approach. Students should complete the eLearning portion of a BLS, ACLS, PALS, or Heartsaver course before attending a virtual skills practice and testing session.
- Q: Is there a timeline by which I must transition from fully Instructor-led virtual training to virtual training using blended learning?
A: Yes, Instructors and Training Centers have approximately 30 days to transition to this new approach to allow for any already scheduled classes. Any virtual training conducted after September 6, 2021, must use the blended learning solution with virtual skills sessions.
- Q: How long can I continue to provide students with access codes to view streaming videos for BLS, ACLS, or PALS provider courses?
A: Access codes for student viewing of streaming videos may be used until the end of the transition period, through September 6, 2021. These codes will be deactivated and no longer valid for use beginning September 7, 2021.
- Q: Does the guidance issued in the August 5, 2021, Training Memo replace previous, interim guidance?
A: Yes, this memo supersedes all previous interim guidance on virtual training options for provider courses.
- Please note, this memo does not replace the Interim Guidance for virtual AHA Instructor Training issued on January 14, 2021.*
- Q: How many students can an Instructor observe during a virtual skills session?
A: For virtual skills sessions, Instructors must adhere to the student to Instructor ratios in the respective Instructor Manuals for BLS, ACLS, PALS, or Heartsaver.
- Q: Is there a special/different roster I should use for virtual skills sessions?
A: No.
- Q: Do Training Center Coordinators still need to inform the AHA via email that they are conducting virtual skills training?
A: No, TCCs are no longer required to inform the AHA via email that they are conducting virtual skills sessions.

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- Q: Who can TCCs contact with questions about virtual skills training for AHA provider courses?
- A: For questions regarding virtual skills training, TCCs may contact
- trainingcenter@heart.org (for US-based Training Centers only)
 - eccinternational@heart.org (for international Training Centers only)
- Q: What is the AHA's guidance on CPR training given the recent rise in COVID-19 due to the Delta variant?
- A: AHA's guidance remains the same as issued at the onset of the pandemic. Our chief concern is the health and safety of the AHA Training Network and those being trained, and we continue to monitor all the latest developments worldwide.

The AHA advises all AHATCs and Instructors to follow the existing recommendations outlined by the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov), as well as the guidance of national, state, and local public health authorities, which will have the most up to date facts and will provide information on basic protective measures against COVID-19. The best protection from infection from COVID-19 is to follow recommended procedures.