


MEMORANDUM

To: City/County Directors of Environmental Health
District Directors

From: Sheri Ford, Director 
Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection

Date: March 27, 2023

Subject: 2023 Fact Sheets for Acceptable Certifications: Aquatics, CPR,
and First Aid

For your information, as referenced in the Environmental Health Manual Technical Reference CSFP-16, attached are the updated “Fact Sheets” that list certifications that have been determined to be equivalent to those specified in Part 6 and/or Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code.

In addition to the changes listed below, please note that minor edits have been made as needed to correct and/or clarify certification titles or course provider names.

We have become aware that several national course providers of standard first aid and community and professional level CPR certifications accepted by the Department now offer an option to take a certification course fully virtually. We have traditionally required ‘in-person’ skills assessment by the instructor for a course to be accepted. After discussing the feasibility of conducting remote skills assessments for first aid and CPR courses with the Department’s Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, we have determined the following:

- First Aid:
 - Course delivery systems that include an option for remote skills assessment are acceptable for standard first aid courses at a Summer Day Camp when the camp program does not include equestrian, bicycling, challenge courses, rock climbing, boating, riflery, archery, motorized recreational vehicles, wilderness hiking/activities, and similar activities; and where emergency care is available within 10 minutes. These certifications are listed on the bottom portion of the First Aid Certifications Fact Sheet. Acceptance of the remote skills assessment for these courses is based on the determination that instructors can accurately assess a student’s performance of the skills, which are limited in number and simplistic in nature. First aid care provided by staff at these day camps is intended to stabilize a patient until more advanced medical personnel arrive on scene. It is evident that remote skills assessment will not impact this goal.
 - Remote skills assessment will not be allowed for the first aid courses required for overnight camps and day camps that are not described above because of the complexity of accurately assessing skill. However, we have not identified that any of the currently accepted first aid courses offer an option for remote skills assessment.

- **CPR:**
 - Remote skills assessment will not be accepted for CPR courses of any level. All previously accepted CPR certifications that offer an option for remote skills assessment will no longer be accepted unless the course provider establishes a means to distinguish that skills assessment was conducted in-person. This will largely affect the Level III and IV Aquatic Supervision CPR Fact Sheet.
 - The Level III/IV fact sheet includes several courses where the course provider must distinguish that the participant completed an in-person skill assessment. To allow for a reasonable transition this season, LHDs may choose to accept a valid certification in an accepted CPR course that lacks the specified accompanying certificate regarding in-person skill assessment if it is verified that the certificate holder completed the skills assessment in-person with an instructor physically present.

1. The following Fact Sheets include changes for 2023:

- **Aquatic Certifications for NYS Bathing Facilities**
 - The Incorporated Village of East Hampton's Surf Lifeguard certification was added to the fact sheet as acceptable for Level I Surf.
 - Minor changes were made to update course provider name and certification titles for Lifesaving Society (Royal Lifesaving Society, Canada) and Ellis Education Services/Ellis & Associates, Inc.
- **CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) CERTIFICATION for NYS Children's Camps and NYS Bathing Facilities**
 - Health & Safety Institute's Basic Life Support (BLS) certification was added to the factsheet.
 - A footnote was added to indicate certifications recently discontinued by the course provider.
- **First Aid Certifications for NYS Children's Camp Staff**
 - Health & Safety Institute's Adult First Aid and Pediatric First Aid certifications were added to the factsheet.
 - A footnote was added to indicate certifications recently discontinued by the course provider.
- **Level III and IV Aquatic Supervision Staff Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certifications for NYS Bathing Facilities**
 - A new requirement was added for the American Heart Association's HeartSaver CPR, AED and HeartSaver First Aid, CPR, AED certifications which specifies that the certification must be accompanied by a separate certification verifying completion of an in-person skills assessment.
 - A new requirement was added for the American Red Cross's Adult CPR/AED and Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED certifications which specifies that the certification must be accompanied by a separate certification verifying completion of an in-person skills session.
 - Health & Safety Institute's CPR AED and Pediatric CPR AED certifications were added to the factsheet.
 - A footnote was added to indicate certifications recently discontinued by the course provider.

2. No changes have been made to the following Fact Sheets for 2023:

- Camp Aquatics Director for NYS Children's Camp Bathing Facilities
- Camp Trip Swimming Program Safety Certifications for NYS Children's Camps
- Learn-to-Swim Programs for NYS Children's Camps
- NYS Bathing Facilities Supervision Level III Aquatic Certification Required for Instructional Activities
- Progressive Swimming Instructor for NYS Children's Camps
- Qualified Swimming Pool Treatment Operator Courses

Please distribute these Fact Sheets to facility operators as needed. The most current Fact Sheets will be made available on the [New York State Department of Health's website](#).

If you have any questions regarding these Fact Sheets, please contact your regional field coordinator.

Attachments (10)

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