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Guidelines for Teaching SOLO Courses – May 2020

We are in a very unique time and situation with the advent of the coronavirus and the reaction to its potential threat to life. Providing education for those who would like to become first responders, EMTs, and paramedics and provide prehospital care to those who are sick and injured has stopped and is now being moved to online but the courses cannot be completed for licensure without certain components like clinical experiences and a hands-on examination.

It is our belief and our desire at SOLO that we need to get emergency medical education back up and running; the demand for well-trained prehospital personal is greater than ever. This does not require any redesign or retooling of our programs. We have always had to train individuals in how to manage patients with infectious diseases such as the flu, meningitis, tuberculosis, or even Ebola.

Below are SOLO's guidelines that we have sent to all of our instructional staff around the country to help them prepare to restart training programs.

SOLO Instructors: This is a new "Guidelines" document for providing emergency medical training.

We are going to be updating this information on a regular basis as this situation is very fluid and constantly changing as the country and businesses reopen.

Most importantly, it is the instructors' responsibility to know the recommendations and guidelines for where ever you are teaching. You have to adhere to and follow the local, state, and institutional guidelines. SOLO cannot supersede or override those guidelines.

We have made some minor modifications to the first Guidelines document to reflect current events for doing courses around the USA.

As some states are beginning to reopen, we have been getting requests from instructors regarding their ability to once again host SOLO courses. It is difficult for SOLO to make a blanket statement about being clear to go ahead and run programs. However, we are providing all of you with guidelines that can help you to decide whether or not you have the necessary steps in place to proceed. Please keep in mind, as always, you are a representative of SOLO and the actions you take not only affect SOLO's reputation in the medical community, but more importantly, your decision may impact patient care. Once you have reviewed the guidelines we are suggesting, you should evaluate if running a course in your specific area can be done while protecting yourself and your students to the best of everyone's abilities, or if it would be better to wait when we hopefully have more definitive information.

Depending upon the state that you are working in:

Class Size:

Your programs may be limited to no more than 9 students (maximum). This allows for the currently recommended number of no more than 10 people (small gathering), including the instructor, to be in one place at a time. Of course, as states re-open, this is one of those guidelines that may change.

Social Distancing:

Students may have to have 6 feet of space between them while in the "classroom" setting for didactic lessons. The CDC indicates this is about two arms' length apart. These may include staggering students in seats so they are separate from one another in all directions. If you are teaching a class totally outside, it may well be that more people can be in the class.

Screening:

Students will need to be screened prior to coming to class each day. More details about this matter are included in *The Principles of Infectious Disease* document. The instructor is responsible for going through and documenting the series of questions/information listed below. Instructors will need to have a temporal or tympanic thermometer. *If you are not able to acquire a thermometer, at a minimum, you should ask students if they have had a fever in the last 24 hours. Using the "mom" technique, you can ask a student if they have felt warm and/or cold (chills).

1. Have you traveled outside of the state in the last 14 days?
2. Have you been in contact with anyone with confirmed COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
3. Have you had/tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
4. Have you had any of the following symptoms in the last 14 days?
 - a. Fever
 - b. Chills
 - c. Sore throat
 - d. Cough
 - e. Nausea
 - f. Vomiting
 - g. Diarrhea
 - h. Body aches and pains
 - i. Fatigue (Malaise)
5. Student's temperature on (date) was (temperature).

PPE:

Instructors will begin the training with addressing PPE/BSI. Students must wear a mask at all times. They are responsible for bringing their own masks, goggles/face shield, gloves, and hand sanitizer.* The space you teach in should have an easily accessible place for students to wash their hands with soap and water. More details about this matter are included in *The Principles of Infectious Disease* document. *We are discussing the possibility of students being able to purchase a PPE kit if they do not have the requisite gear. Obviously, they need at least two cloth masks so one can be washed and dried while another is being used. Gloves will need to be changed with each practical session if students are using the same equipment. This is a thought in process.

Hands-on Practice:

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At the WFA level, students will be demonstrating skills on something as simple as a foam pad or CPR manikin instead of a live patient. Bleeding control and treatment for musculoskeletal injuries can be performed on themselves. Splints can also be built on simulated limbs, such as a pool noodle with a PVC pipe or wooden rod through the middle. As noted in *The Principles of Infectious Disease* document, surfaces must be cleaned regularly.

SOLO Campus and at home EMR and EMT courses:

Students will be staying on campus for the duration of the EMR or EMT course. They will not be going into town for any reason other than clinicals.

Classes start early, 8am and run late, 9pm. This keeps everyone busy, learning, and on campus.

Students have to arrive healthy and they have to stay healthy.

Before they arrive they will have completed a document that asks them:

1. Have you traveled outside of the USA in the last 14 days?
2. Have you been in contact with anyone with confirmed COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
3. Have you had/tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
4. Have you had any of the following symptoms in the last 7 days?
 - a. Fever
 - b. Chills
 - c. Sore throat
 - d. Cough
 - e. Nausea
 - f. Vomiting
 - g. Diarrhea
 - h. Body aches and pains
 - i. Fatigue (Malaise)

Questions for the Bureau of EMS on which they are working:

Is there going to be a modified requirement for clinicals, as a lot of facilities are not accepting student observers?

What about the practical exam? Would it be possible for us to be able to do a skills check off as the class progresses to document the skills instead of doing a practical, state-run exam at the end of the class?

Would the state consider allowing SOLO to do a pilot program?