

## **DDS Guidance regarding CPRR training during COVID-19 pandemic 7.14.20**

The following document is provided to offer guidance for the planned resumption of both the didactic and physical intervention skills taught in any DDS certified Crisis Prevention Response and Restraint (CPRR) curricula/training. As we move forward with opening Massachusetts, with a phased approach, it is important to continue to follow the guidance offered by the Governor, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the Massachusetts Executive Office for Health and Human Services (EHS) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Please access the DDS website at <https://www.mass.gov/dds-covid-19-resources-and-support> or at the <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information> website for further information on COVID-19. These procedures reflect the guidance from those entities.

Teaching of any CPRR may begin with virtually teaching all didactic material including de-escalation and prevention techniques. However, when state requirements as outlined above, for class size, social distancing, proper use of full PPE and built in breaks for hand washing etc. on a predictable schedule are met the service provider could proceed with in person training including didactic as well as all physical intervention skills in the CPRR curriculum. The service provider may use in house CPRR certified instructors. However, those instructors may not change, modify or develop materials including video or other teaching modalities of any of the CPRR curriculum. The CPRR remains the sole proprietary entity that may alter their curriculum.

The service provider must ensure that the following occurs:

- All staff entering a classroom setting must be assessed for exposure to the COVID-19 virus. All COVID-19 screening questions must be asked of all students, instructors or others who enter a classroom setting. These include but are not limited to:
  - Are you or anyone in your household sick with a fever, newly developed respiratory illness, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, abdominal pain, unexplained rash, fatigue, headache, new loss of smell/taste, new muscle aches, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting?
  - Have you had contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
  - Have you or anyone in your household been directed to self-isolate or quarantine?
- Masks are to be worn when didactic material is being taught.
- When physical interventions are taught, PPE is to include masks, gloves and protective garb (i.e. gowns, coveralls, etc.) These must be worn, at all times, while physical interventions are taught.
- PPE must be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

- When either in person didactic or physical intervention skills are taught a suitable room that allows social distancing of 6 feet radius or more (113 sq. ft.) for a maximum of 10 people is essential.
- Room ventilation is critical and when possible, additional filters are added to the HVAC systems>
- Adequate hand sanitizer and disinfectant are readily available.
- Training rooms are disinfected between each class.

## **TEACHING DIDACTIC MATERIAL**

### **Virtual Training:**

- Virtual training of any didactic material in any CPRR may occur, including all de-escalation, prevention and communication strategies taught, using a platform such as ZOOM, WebEx, videos, or a flash/thumb drive etc.
- All virtual training material must be developed by the CPRR and not by an in-house instructor(s) as it is proprietary content/material.

### **Classroom training:**

- Training may occur in a classroom setting only if all necessary safety precautions, as outlined above and in compliance with DDS, EHS, DPH and the CDC, are taken including proper social distancing, PPE use and frequent sanitization of the area and equipment must be followed.
- Training may not exceed 10 people.
- Testing for competence must be done for participants in all trainings either virtually or in a classroom and a record kept of their status.

## **TEACHING PHYSICAL INTERVENTION SKILLS**

Given the safety constraints dictated by COVID-19 it is recommended that teaching of physical intervention skills be phased in beginning with virtual demonstrations with presenters in full garb. Subsequently any physical intervention taught virtually should be followed by an in-person hands on skill demonstration and competency testing. Certification of participants in physical interventions can only be awarded after an in-person, hands on assessment by the instructor.

### **In-person Physical Skills training**

- CPRR Physical Intervention(s) training for new staff may be resumed following all DDS, EHS, DPH and CDC guidance.
- All safety precautions must be followed including the use of full PPE, social distancing, no more than 10 people can be trained at a time.
- Sanitization of the training area is done before, during and after each training.

- Scheduled breaks are taken to provide an opportunity for participants to wash their hands.
- If gloves or other PPE are removed for any reason new PPE must be provided to the participant or instructor.
- Only the trainer and the person being trained may interact directly with each other, both in full protective gear.
- All participants must be tested for competence in all physical intervention skills taught and a record kept of their status.

**Re-certification training:**

- Re-certification of previously trained staff, in any CPRR, will be extended when necessary, for up to six months to accommodate the backlog of new staff needing to be trained. However, it is recommended that a review of all physical skills be conducted, via a virtual platform, on a regular basis. While this is not a substitute for the re-certification process it will feasibly keep physical intervention skills intact. An in-person hands on certification process must occur as soon as possible within the six-month extension.

As we move forward with our phased approach of opening the state it is important to continue to follow the guidance offered by the Governor, DPH and EHS and the CDC. Please access the DDS website for further information on COVID-19.

If a DDS agency CPRR trainer has questions or would like to discuss the agency's plan for the restarting of training please contact: [janet.george@mass.gov](mailto:janet.george@mass.gov) or [barbara.peebles@mass.gov](mailto:barbara.peebles@mass.gov).

Further, after Phase IV, a review of all staff that were trained using protective garb must occur to assess whether the physical intervention skills that were taught have been mastered.

If there is another surge of the virus or another wave, the status of CPRR training will be assessed and any in-person training may be suspended.