

Dear Customer,

NHA appreciates all you are doing to help your students access a better future, even during a time that has presented unique challenges. Our shared goal is to help these candidates stay on the path to achieving high quality, accredited certification so they may successfully enter the workforce to help patients.

As the circumstances continue to evolve around COVID-19, it remains unclear when schools and externship programs will reopen. Therefore, we want to clarify that if the COVID-19 outbreak prevents candidates pursuing phlebotomy technician certification (CPT) and/or EKG Technician certification (CET) from completing the venipuncture, capillary sticks and/or EKG eligibility requirements within the 90-day period of passing their exam, NHA and our Certification Governing Board will extend the timeframe for completion.

The Board has responsibility and oversight of all certification and recertification requirements and eligibility standards deemed critical to achieving the credential. At this time, the Board is not considering alternative means of demonstrating these live requirements (e.g. waiving or reducing the quantity performed and/or allowing the use of simulation).

Demonstration of these additional eligibility requirements is an important aspect of a high-quality national certification—the type of certification schools and candidates deserve. Additionally, employers have the expectation that candidates with these credentials will enter the job qualified and ready to perform these skills.

As a reminder, during the COVID-19 outbreak and for a reasonable time thereafter, our Board has authorized CPT and CET candidates to take their certification exam upon completion of required coursework and to receive the appropriate pass/fail result. Candidates who pass their exam before meeting the eligibility requirements will receive documentation that they successfully passed the certification exam and are considered conditionally certified.

The additional hands-on eligibility requirement must be satisfied within 90 days of passing the exam, though as noted, we will work with our Board to extend the timeframe for completion, should the need arise. When the school receives documentation showing the additional requirements have been completed and attests that the requirement has been fulfilled, NHA will automatically update their status and issue the full certification.

If you would like to learn more about this extension and pursue implementation for your institution, please complete the addendum and then contact your NHA rep. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation and will communicate any updates on our [COVID-19 resources page](#). Thank you again for your continued commitment to your programs and candidates. We're all in this together, and NHA is here to support you and your learners.

Sincerely,
Your NHA Team