

ESA. THE BEST ARE READY.

January 7, 2022

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Attention: ESA Students

## Re: COVID-19- ESA Update- January 7, 2022:

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday and were able to relax and recharge for the coming year.

Here we are... January of 2022... in the fifth wave of Covid-19. I know we are all disappointed to still be in this situation but together we will get through this. Thank you for all the support and patience you have shown ESA. Thank you for being strong and flexible and continuing to strive to meet your educational goals. Thank you for staying home and "zooming" when you have covid-like symptoms. Thank you for working to keep each other safe. We really do appreciate you and the sacrifices you have made.

As we move forward into 2022, we will continue to follow the restrictions and guidelines set by the Alberta Government and the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH). Current actions summarized below:

ESA implemented a Proof of Vaccine Policy on October 1, 2021. This Proof of Vaccine Policy will remain in effect until the Order is rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) and an official announcement is made by ESA.

ESA Students are required to provide one of the following:

- a. Proof of vaccination with valid identification
- b. Proof of a medical exemption; or
- c. Regular COVID-19 testing through privately paid testing.

The Proof of Vaccine Policy is critical for ESA programs to continue to operate in a meaningful way. Our Fire and EMS programs include high value, mandatory practical components where physical distancing is not possible. The Proof of Vaccine Policy allows our students to continue to engage in fundamental, in person, hands on experiences that enhance student learning and supports competency attainment.

As of November 15, 2021, your <u>Alberta vaccine record with QR code</u> will be the only valid Alberta proof of vaccination accepted by ESA. You must also provide valid identification (Driver's license, Passport, etc.) that matches the vaccine record.

In-person lecture and practical training will continue at ESA and will include mandatory masks, PPE, frequent hand washing and sanitizing, daily health questionnaires, zero congregating, plexi-glass barriers and frequent sanitization of surfaces.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES ACADEMY LTD.

Students who have symptoms or test positive for Covid-19 are legally required to isolate. Details <u>HERE</u>. Students required to isolate will collaborate with ESA to determine the best path forward.

As always, we will continue to heed the advice of the Alberta Government in regard to Covid-19. We move forward with the understanding that at any moment, we could be asked to pivot once again. As evidenced in the past two years, we are up for the challenge. We are fiercely committed to our students, we are resilient and we are professional. We will continue to provide high level emergency services education while continuing to maintain our close knit, family environment.

I want to share my sincere gratitude to our administration team, faculty and students for their patience, flexibility and trust as we all worked together throughout 2021 to maintain a safe learning and working environment.

I look forward to a new year with new challenges and new students. Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay connected.

Best regards, EMERGENCY SERVICES ACADEMY LTD.

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Chelsey Reid Director & Registrar

