

# MEMORANDUM



To: School of EMS All  
From: TC Howard, Chief Operating Officer  
Date: March 12, 2020  
RE: COVID-19 Statement #1

School of EMS Students, Staff, and Partners:

As many of you are aware, our nation is undergoing an international crisis at the moment with COVID-19 (Corona Virus). While many of us in healthcare see this as an opportunity to help, we must be cognizant of the dangers that unnecessarily stand in our way and the transmission of such dangers. Due to the most recent developments worldwide and the threat level being raised in the United States, the School of EMS has made the decision to suspend all live skills classes through April 2, 2020. We fully understand the inconvenience this creates for you but do wish to keep your safety as our main concern when meeting in large groups.

Starting Monday, March 16, 2020 all live classes at our Carrollton, TX; Tyler, TX; Nacogdoches, TX; Sioux Falls, SD; and St. Petersburg, FL campus will be suspended until April 2, 2020. Alternate modes of education will be developed for each class in order to meet your continued educational needs. That process will be shared via Canvas as soon as the final product is determined. For those of you that are currently working within the online courses, you will see no change in your didactic work but you will see postponement in your lab/ live week education.

The portion of your education that carries the most risk is your clinical and field internships. We are closely working as a team to provide a solution that provides you with the safest alternative to obtaining your ultimate goal. With this in mind, a full suspension of all clinical and field internships is active as of 1700 on March 12, 2020. We will develop and communicate a more definitive strategy for clinical and field internship in the days and weeks ahead. Today alone we have been notified by many of our partners that they will be forgoing students until told otherwise. This creates an overall concern for everyone involved.

Please understand we do not take this situation lightly and as well wish that the overall crisis had not led us to such a decision. Many of our partners within the healthcare industry are struggling to meet the PPE equipment needed for staff let alone students. While the School of EMS has PPE that we are prepared to provide we have found that many partners are simply suspending student interaction due to liability reasons. To be clear the School of EMS is NOT suspending education. We are simply attempting to create the safest possible environment for our students so that you can complete your goal to be the best EMR, EMT, or Paramedic for the patients we all serve.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask via canvas or reach out to us for further information. This is a fluid situation and could very well change sooner than expected. We will do our best to provide routine updates for every student and keep you informed of changes when they occur. Thanks again for your continued work.

TC Howard  
School of EMS, COO