



Board for Barbers and Cosmetology

Revised Guidance Document: September 1, 2022

Approved Health Education Certifying Agencies

I. Background

The Board maintains a guidance document that lists the approved health education certifying agencies for tattooers and body piercers. Both licensees and applicants must provide documentation of their First Aid, CPR, and Bloodborne Pathogens training. The previous guidance document required First Aid and CPR training to include at least 50% in-person instruction, but training for bloodborne pathogens may be completed entirely online. Health education providers discontinued doing in-person training during the pandemic and solely offered instruction online. The DPOR Agency Director waived the in-person training requirements during the State of Emergency. After the waiver expired on July 30, 2021, applicants and licensees had to submit First Aid and CPR showing in-person training again. However, many health education providers still only offer online instruction. The in-person requirement does not appear to be significantly improving safety, and the regulant community does not appear to see value in it. The Board decided to waive the in-person requirement at the September 20, 2021 Board meeting because licensees were having difficulties complying with the requirement due to circumstances beyond their control.

II. Issue

The Board received numerous complaints about how few health education providers have restarted in-person training. It may take weeks or months to meet the in-person training criteria because so few providers are offering it. Due to the lack of in-person training, some applicants fell into reinstatement which doubles the renewal fee. Another issue is how in-person training affects Virginia's tattoo conventions. Virginia hosts four or five annual tattoo conventions where numerous out-of-state tattoo artists seek limited-term tattooer licenses. Across the country, some states still limit in-person training, and

nationally, many providers still do not offer it. This creates a large obstacle for out-of-state tattooers to get the required limited-term license for any Virginia convention.

III. Board Guidance

On September 20, 2021, the Board approved guidance for health education instruction.

The following health education (as referred to in 18 VAC 41-50, including limited term tattooers, and 18 VAC 41-60) is deemed acceptable to the Board. Documentation verifying course completion shall bear the name of the individual as it appears on the application or license as well as the name of the Board approved certifying agency. Training may be online, in person, or both.

The Virginia Board for Barbers and Cosmetology will be taking public comment on this proposed guidance document regarding online instruction for health education certifying agencies. A 30-day comment period will begin on August 1, 2022.

If you wish to comment on the proposed guidance document, you may do so via the Town Hall website or you may submit written comments so that they are received no later than August 31, 2022 to:

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