

To: Community Health Nurses

From: Alberta Region Nursing Education, FNIHB, ISC

Re: Certifications/Trainings

Background: Following Alberta's declaration of a state of Public Health Emergency over the COVID 19 virus and the activation of Indigenous Services Business Continuity Plan, community services have been scaled back to essential services only. Please see the Recommendations for Essential Services: COVID-19 Pandemic memo sent to all Community Health Nurses on March 19, 2020 for further clarity.

Physical distancing and limitations to in-person contact complicate training and renewal of certifications. Therefore, it may be difficult to obtain or maintain current certifications with ACLS, BLS, ITLS, PALS and the Immunization Provider course.

Recommendations: Following the direction from Vicki Martineau, Senior Program Officer, Primary Health Care Systems Division, FNIHB, ISC (March 25, 2020), there will be a grace period for the renewal of ACLS, BLS, ITLS, PALS, and the Immunization Provider course from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020. If required, this grace period may be extended based on the state of COVID-19. Please renew all your expired certificates or trainings at the first available opportunity once services are back to normal.

The grace period is related to mandatory certifications and re-certifications required with two FNIHB policies. Namely:

- Mandatory Training for Health Canada Employees providing Primary Care Services within First Nation Communities (May 2017) and
- Mandatory Inoculist Certificate and Re-certification Program (March 2020).

For BLS providers with certificates expiring March 2020 through May 2020, Heart & Stroke Foundation has provided a renewal grace period until July 31, 2020. This grace period is from the Heart & Stroke Foundation and is different from the grace period related to FNIHB policies.

Nurses are recommended to maintain their practice skills related to ACLS, BLS, ITLS and PALS with review of the current provider manuals and pre-assessment videos available through the Heart and Stroke Foundation portal or ITLS course provider.

All nurses should continue to take any online courses that are available, including FNIHB Nursing Modules, Controlled Substances, TDG and WHMIS. We understand the challenges posed by the current situation and appreciate your dedication and understanding to this matter.

