Update on Emergency Medical Response Program

Following the announcement of our plans to discontinue our Emergency Medical Response program (EMR), we have heard about the importance of this program to our instructors and instructor trainers, our training partners, and Red Cross volunteers across the country. Due to the overwhelming response, we have decided that we will not be discontinuing the EMR program as originally stated and will instead begin the process of updating the program to the latest scientific guidelines. Specific details about the release timing for an updated program will be communicated via Instructor’s Corner and iConnection in the coming months. In the meantime, the current program will remain available and we will continue to grant certifications using the current program.

We would like to sincerely thank all individuals – including health and safety instructors, our training partners, and Red Cross volunteers – who reached out to provide the valuable feedback that helped inform this decision.

For additional information, please see the FAQs below.

Q: Will the Emergency Medical Response (EMR) program be updated to the 2015 Guidelines for First Aid and CPR?
A: Yes, we will be releasing an updated EMR program reflecting the 2015 Guidelines for First Aid and CPR.

Q: When will the updated program be released?
A: We have begun planning the update to the EMR program however we are not ready to announce an official release date. Information will be communicated via Instructor’s Corner and iConnection as soon as we have more details.

Q: Can I continue to teach the current program?
A: Yes, the current training is valid and saves lives and the associated certifications remain valid. Continue to teach the other programs as outlined in your instructor and instructor trainer manuals until those are updated.

Q: Can I modify the existing program to reflect the updated guidelines until the new program is released?
A: No. The current program should be taught as indicated in the program materials and should not be modified.

Q: Will I need to update my instructor or instructor trainer (IT) certification?
A: Yes. If you are a current EMR instructor or IT and wish to continue teaching the program, you will need to maintain your certification by completing a recertification assessment. Information on the EMR recertification assessment can be found on the EMR program page on Instructor’s Corner (click link here).

Q: I teach the EMR program in an academic setting and will be teaching for the upcoming school year. Will I be able to use the current program materials through the end of the upcoming academic year (ending in June 2017)?
A: Yes, the current program and materials will remain valid through at least the end of the upcoming academic year and the updated program will be available for the following year.