



As the Lifesaving Society continues to provide updated information and resources to support your plans related to staffing and reopening aquatic facilities, please note the following items:

- 1. Branch Office Reopening:** We are pleased to inform you that the Branch Office has now reopened as of Monday, June 15 including phones becoming active. Operations are modified based on COVID-19 precautions, especially for those coming into the office to pick up an order.
- 2. Extension of Lifesaving Society Certifications:** In follow-up to extensions provided in our [March 26 Update](#), we have now modified that to state that all Lifesaving Society certifications expiring as of March 1, 2020, through to October 31, 2020 will now expire on October 31, 2020. This date was chosen to allow a reasonable period for recertifications to take place following anticipated August/September opening of most aquatic facilities.

As the new Bronze Medals launch has been postponed until January 4, 2021 all Lifesaving Instructors (LSIs) who qualified for the LSI extension will remain certified to December 31, 2020.

- 3. Lifeguard Training for Reopening:** If you are reopening prior to August 1 or are unable to recertify staff before reopening, it is strongly recommended that Affiliates require staff to present proof of recertification within 90 days of their return to work.

We are finalizing materials to assist you in training your staff prior to reopening. A sample *Staff Reorientation for COVID-19* document will be available not later than June 24 including:

- A list of documents staff should review prior to arrival at the reorientation
  - Activities (complete with times) based on the Guidelines for Reopening BC & Yukon Pools & Waterfronts document
  - Equipment needed
  - Who is able to teach each section based on their training
  - Scenarios to practice the Decision Tree and use of the bag valve mask
- 4. National Lifeguard Recertifications:** The Lifesaving Society recommends that Affiliates offer lifeguard recertification prior to reopening facilities to the public. Additional extensions will not be granted beyond October 31, 2020.

All NL-certified candidates must obtain the *Airway Management & Oxygen Administration (AMOA)* certification as a prerequisite to attending an NL Recertification. This training includes education on the use of a BVM and other COVID-19 precautions and will be available not later than July 1. National Lifeguard Recertifications can then be scheduled after that date.

- 5. Instructor Training:** All Instructors and Trainers will be required to complete the **Mandatory Instructor COVID-19 Update** prior to teaching all Lifesaving Society programs moving forward. Any courses taught prior to the Instructor/Trainer having obtained the **Update** may require candidates to be trained retroactively. The **Update** will be available online not later than June 24; information on how to access this **Update** will be available and communicated by Friday, June 19.

## Lifesaving Society COVID-19 Update – June 17, 2020

- 6. Extension of OFA Equivalent First Aid Courses:** In follow-up to extensions provided in our [March 26 Update](#), for any Lifesaving Society first aid courses deemed as OFA Level 1 equivalent (as of July 1, 2019), WorkSafeBC has now modified their short term extensions of Occupational First Aid Certificates to state, “As British Columbia begins to reopen its doors, access to first aid training will increase across the province. We expect first aid attendants with expired certificates will seek recertification as soon as training is available.

*Meanwhile, to further accommodate physical distancing and safe practices, WorkSafeBC has extended first aid certificates with expiry dates between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020. These certificates will now be acceptable in the workplace for 180 days beyond their original expiry date. Certificates will not be reprinted, and no further action is needed from either first aid attendants or employers to qualify for an extension.*

*If you are unable to recertify immediately, you can brush up on your skills with these [OFA Level 1 videos](#) and [first aid reference manuals](#) while you wait for training.*

*WorkSafeBC will continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and recommendations put forth by federal and provincial agencies. Should an additional extension be required, we will release further information and direction at that time.”*

- 7. Processing Certifications:** As we begin to see courses being run, Member Services staff will be in place and prepared to process test sheets. As always, email [awards@lifesaving.bc.ca](mailto:awards@lifesaving.bc.ca) with your completed test sheet attached using the fillable forms found on the website. In the body of the email, include course name, location, completion date, instructor, original or recert and billing information. For first aid courses, submit as normal through your website account.
- 8. Personal Protective Equipment:** In response to the high demand for PPE, the Branch has sourced out most items required, however we continue to experience a shortage of gowns and gloves as is common with most suppliers. Orders will be filled based on when they were placed, however we are trying to ration large quantities to allow more orders to be filled. Your cooperation and patience is appreciated.
- 9. Viral Filters:** There has been much confusion around the viral filters needed for pocket masks and BVMs to help prevent transmission of COVID-19. At this point, our best information is:
- The large square green viral filter previously in the Shop provides 99.99% filtration; our price was \$9 and one was to be included in the price of any BVM and pocket mask sold.
  - The smaller clear filter is also known as ‘viral’ and provides 99.2% at a price of \$3.
  - We have consulted several experts in the field and have been told that anything over 99% is definitely adequate to help prevent the transmission of viruses such as COVID-19, so we decided not to carry the \$9 model and instead will include the \$3 model with each pocket mask.
  - We have now been told there is a viral filter specifically for BVMs that is priced at \$5 and will be included with the purchase of each BVM.
  - We have followed up with anyone who has purchased the \$9 model and adjusted their invoice.

Suffice to say that we are trying to source out the most appropriate and least expensive option for our Affiliates while still ensuring it is adequate to address COVID-19 concerns.

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