



To keep you informed and in touch with the latest information, the BC & Yukon Branch of the Lifesaving Society provides the following Update as follow-up to the March 13 & March 17 Updates available on our [website](#).

- 1) The Branch Office continues to be closed although staff are available to serve you remotely on a limited basis. Emails to info@lifesaving.bc.ca will be monitored and responses provided. To submit test sheets for courses run prior facility shutdowns, email to awards@lifesaving.bc.ca
- 2) With regard to validity of awards, understanding that recertification courses are not currently available, the Lifesaving Society is looking to support aquatic staff and the re-opening of aquatic facilities following the COVID-19 crisis. To that end, we will be extending the validity of national vocational awards that have expired March 1, 2020 or thereafter for up to 90 days following a Provincial Health Services Authority announcement that aquatic facilities and recreation centres are allowed to re-open.

We will work closely with Affiliates, Trainers and Instructors to help ensure there is a capacity to address the demand we expect for recertifications once the go-ahead is given.

- 3) In regard to extensions for OFA equivalent first aid certifications, we have been advised by WorkSafeBC that,
“Any occupational first aid, or equivalent certificates, which are due to expire between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020, will be granted an extension by WorkSafeBC. These certificates will now be acceptable in the workplace for 90 days beyond their original expiry date.
Certificates will not be reprinted. First Aid Attendants and employers do not need to take any actions to qualify for the extensions.
WorkSafeBC will continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and recommendations put forth by federal and provincial agencies, and should additional extensions be required we will release further information and direction at that time.”

The Lifesaving Society will continue to review the situation and provide as much support and notice as possible as to when programs may resume and the Branch Office will re-open. For the most recent information and advice go to [Health Canada](#), the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) and local [Health Authorities](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and please keep your distance to ensure that you, your family and our fellow citizens stay safe and healthy!