



Bulletin for the Manitoba Fire Service: Restoring Services for Testing and Training

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OFC 21-003

The Manitoba Emergency Services College (MESC) typically schedules several exam sittings per year to accommodate testing students from across the province however COVID-19 has led to the cancellation of a number of exam sittings.

The MESC is pleased to release its plan on restoring MESC services to the Manitoba Fire Service.

Training

- **The MESC has completed a review of all courses and testing listed in the course calendar up to June. It has been determined that these courses can continue in a modified manner reflecting current public health measures.**
- COVID prevention measures have been developed and will be in place to ensure the safety of all students and to mitigate the risk of transmission or exposure. Precautions include:
 - The use of masks, physical distancing, frequent handwashing and sanitizer.
 - Class sizes for courses and testing will be maintained at 10 students and course requests from fire departments or Mutual Aid/Training Districts will be reviewed to ensure that classes are “cohorted” to the fire department or Mutual Aid/Training District registering for the course.
 - Casual instructors from elevated pandemic level regions will not travel between regions that vary within the pandemic response system, if applicable.

These precautions will be reassessed frequently and are subject to change to ensure alignment with public health measures.

Written Exams

- The MESC is striving to eliminate any backlog of written tests and has been actively working to restore services since January 2021.
- A list of students whose testing was cancelled was maintained and the MESC is contacting the students, their Fire Departments and Mutual Aid/Training Districts to set up times and locations to access exams. Local proctoring arrangements will be made to accommodate students when possible.
- For the safety of students, the MESC is reducing the number of students attending each exam to allow for social distancing, as well as to ensure that COVID-19 procedures are in place at any location where exams are occur.

Practical Testing

- The MESC has resumed practical testing, starting in March.
- Practical testing will be modified as required to ensure that all public health requirements are being met and to ensure student safety.
- Practical testing will only be for one class at a time to help ensure social distancing.
- MESC will contact students and instructors to schedule a date for the practical testing in the near future. Currently, the following dates for practical testing have been scheduled and fire departments are in the process of being scheduled:

DATES	PRACTICAL TESTING SUBJECT
April 17 & 18	Hazardous Materials Operations
April 24 & 25	Hazardous Materials Operations
May 1 & 2	Hazardous Materials Operations
May 8 & 9	Hazardous Materials Operations
April 24 & 25	Fire fighting
May 29 & 30	Fire fighting
June – Dates TBD	Fire fighting
July – Dates TBD	Fire fighting

The MESC will take all reasonable measures to accommodate the pandemic response protocols while still ensuring that students have the accredited training they need to prepare them for graduation and service at originally planned times and deliver critical services to Manitobans.

If you have any questions, please contact the MESC at 204-726-6855.