

LIFE SUPPORT FAQs

My life support card has expired or will be expiring very soon. Will I be in trouble, be punished, or lose my job?

No. Based on recommendations from AHA, Duke Health leadership has extended the expiration of life support certification. You have at least until the end of the calendar year to recertify. The health system life support team will be publishing a plan within the next few weeks to allow people who have expired or who will expire through December 2020 to 'catch up'.

I am OK with BLS but need to recertify ACLS or PALS. Will I be able to do the update class? Or will I have to take the provider class again?

Yes. If your advanced life support has expired, for this situation (Covid Restrictions), you will still be able to recertify using an update course. You will not have to take the provider course.

Will we have blitz as currently planned?

No. Given COVID-19 restrictions, the life support team has an opportunity to reinvent how we deliver BLS. Expect BLS classes to be more frequent offered at all three hospitals every month instead of quarterly week-long events. We are hopeful that this will help staff to find a course that fits better with their schedule and we can get all those who need to be recertified up to date.

I really like the BLS-ACLS/BLS-PALS combo courses. Will these still be an option?

Going forward, we are incorporating this option into the classes that are available. The life support team will publish a quarterly schedule starting in this summer with classes scheduled to meet the needs of those who have expired and get everyone back on track during the remainder of 2020. Some of these options may be combo classes; every hospital may not have a combo class in an effort to both catch up as well as move forward.

I have not expired but want to take a class before I do. Are registrations going to be triaged?

Yes. Priority will be given to people who have already expired. If you expire before you can get into a class, do not worry: we will get you in!

I may not be interested in taking a traditional class. Are there options?

Yes! Heartcode remains a popular option; however, there is a cost on your end. You would register and do the class online at your timing, and see a CNE to have your skills checked off. If you are interested in Heartcode, contact your CNE or one of the three hospital life support coordinators.

When will classes return to normal?

We are making an attempt to schedule classes as we can following the restrictions that are in place. We are being as thoughtful and strategic as we can when there is still a lot of unknowns in regards to how the next couple of weeks and months may play out. Your flexibility and patience as we navigate this is greatly appreciated.

What about new hires to DUHS, are you still providing orientation BLS?

We continue to ensure that the new hires have had/attended a formal life support course. Each orientee is evaluated and then the determination is made as to whether they need to attend a BLS Healthcare Provider course. Our team is ensuring all new hires who have been identified as needing this class are receiving during the week of orientation.