



## Conducting ITLS Courses Remotely During the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Statement on Alternate Pathways for ITLS Certification

ITLS recognizes that students worldwide may need or want to obtain ITLS Provider certification during the pandemic period, when many courses are not able to be held in person due to public health and safety concerns.

The ITLS Board of Directors has approved alternate pathways for achieving ITLS Provider certification during this unprecedented time. There are options for two types of students:

- New students seeking their initial Provider certification
- Current students who wish to renew their existing Provider certification

The options and requirements for conducting certification courses vary and are detailed on the Alternate Pathways for ITLS Certification During COVID-19 Pandemic flow chart but several elements are universal:

1. The Written Exam will not be administered during the pandemic period due to exam security concerns.
2. The Patient Assessment Practical Exam will be conducted live via videoconference and will focus on the performance of the Rapid Trauma Survey and the Reassessment Exam.

This guidance on alternate pathways **replaces previous guidance from ITLS on extensions for Provider cards**, distributed on March 18, 2020. Provider cards may not be extended beyond June 30, 2020. After that date, all students must comply with the alternate pathways requirements to receive or renew their certification.

Additional logistical concerns for each pathway are addressed below. At the end of the document, guidance from ITLS on best practices for remote learning for instructors and for students are also included.

### Considerations for Initial Provider Certification

Students who have never taken the ITLS Provider course may pursue a provisional ITLS Basic or Advanced Provider certification during this period. The provisional certificate will be issued after the student has completed the following requirements:

1. Completion of the didactic course material via:
  - a. Existing 8<sup>th</sup> Edition ITLS eTrauma online course **OR**
  - b. Presentation of Core Curriculum content via videoconference
2. Student demonstration of Patient Assessment for evaluation via videoconference

The provisional certificate will be noted as Provisional on the ITLS card/certificate, will include 8 hours of continuing education credit, and will expire 1 year from the date of issuance. No Instructor Potential designations will be awarded during the provisional certification.



## Conducting ITLS Courses Remotely During the COVID-19 Pandemic

When pandemic restrictions are lifted, students will take an in-person Completer Course to learn, practice, and be tested on skills. If the Completer Course is presented in a traditional Provider course model, students will also complete the Written Exam at that time. If the Completer Course follows the case-based learning model, the Written Exam will not be required; student performance will be evaluated according to the Scenario Evaluation Rubric instead.

Upon successful completion of the requirements of the Completer Course, the student's provisional Provider certification will be converted to a standard Provider certification for the remainder of the certification period. (A standard card will be issued with 8 additional hours of continuing education credit, for a total of 16 hours.)

Additional CMS instruction will be sent to Chapters and Training Centres about how properly enter courses for the provisional certification.

The ITLS International Student Assessment Fee of \$17 per student is due at the time of provisional card issuance. A second fee **will not** be assessed after the completion of the Completer Course.

Students are strongly encouraged to complete their provisional certification and Completer Course requirements with the same course coordinator to allow for maximum continuity of training and education.

### *Where to Buy ITLS eTrauma*

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition ITLS eTrauma course is available. The 9<sup>th</sup> edition ITLS eTrauma course is not yet available and a timeline for availability has not yet been released due to delays by Pearson.

U.S. residents must buy 8<sup>th</sup> Edition ITLS eTrauma from Pearson's website. There are three options for purchase: [course access only](#) (no textbook or etextbook), [course access with etextbook access](#), and [value package with hard copy textbook and etextbook](#). Note: Ordering the value package that includes the 8<sup>th</sup> edition textbook will not allow students to start the course instantly. Their course access code will be shipped with their physical book so they cannot start the online course until the package arrives.

All international customers (including Canada) should purchase ITLS eTrauma directly through the ITLS Bookstore at ITRAUMA.org. Two options are available: [course access only](#) and [course access with 8<sup>th</sup> edition etextbook](#). Sorry, options with hard copy textbook are not available to customers outside of the U.S.



## Conducting ITLS Courses Remotely During the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Consideration for Provider Recertification

Students who hold a current, valid ITLS Basic or Advanced Provider certification can renew their certificate by completing the following requirements:

1. Completion of the didactic course material via:
  - a. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition Rapid Renewal Provider Update online course **OR**
  - b. Presentation of Core Curriculum content via videoconference
2. Student demonstration of Patient Assessment for evaluation via videoconference

The certification issued **will not** be provisional and will be valid for the standard ITLS certification period. No additional components are required for Provider Recertification students during the pandemic period.

Students who complete their recertification via Rapid renewal (option A above) will receive 1 hour of continuing education credit. Students who complete their recertification via videoconference (option B) will receive 8 hours of continuing education credit.

The ITLS International Student Fee of \$17 is due at the time of card issuance for all Provider Recertifications conducted via videoconference (option B) The International Student Fee is not charged for Rapid Renewal recertifications (option A), but the Chapter/Training Centre can charge their own administrative fee as desired.

#### *Where to Buy 9<sup>th</sup> Edition Rapid Renewal Provider Update*

The 9<sup>th</sup> Edition ITLS Rapid Renewal Provider Update is a 1-hour online course available for \$40 USD through ITLS's LMS platform at [Learn.ITRAUMA.org](https://Learn.ITRAUMA.org). All users in all locations can purchase and instantly access the course for completion.

ITLS recommends that course coordinators make a bulk purchase of licenses for the Rapid Renewal Provider Update course and assign the licenses to their students. **This will allow the coordinator to charge their students one price for the Provider Recertification that includes the online course as well as the Virtual Patient Assessment Evaluation.** Instructions for completing a bulk purchase are available at [Learn.ITRAUMA.org](https://Learn.ITRAUMA.org) under [Group Registrations](#). (You do not need to assign all licenses at one time. You may return to the site to assign licenses as needed.)



## Conducting ITLS Courses Remotely During the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Best Practices for Remote Learning Success

#### Guidelines for Instructors:

##### *Before You Get Started*

1. You will need a mobile device or a laptop/desktop with microphone and webcam capabilities.
2. Set up in a space that is quiet and free from distractions with sufficient space for patient assessment practice.
3. Practice sharing your screen if you will be using slides or other visual aids for didactic content.
4. Have your manikin and props set up before beginning the session.
5. Test your video and audio before presenting to ensure that you have found a location that shows your full patient assessment demonstration.
6. Consider purchasing a headset and/or inexpensive microphone to improve the quality of your audio.

##### *During Videoconference Teaching*

1. Ensure that you can see all students during the videoconference. This is key for making sure all students are active participants. A Gallery view is the easiest way to see the “classroom.”
2. Advise student before beginning your preferred method for taking questions during the presentation. Options may include:
  - a. Sending a question via the Chat feature (if available)
  - b. Using the Raise Hand feature (if available)
  - c. Waiting until the instructor pauses and invites questions
  - d. Waiting until the end of the presentation
3. Invite active participation during your presentation by posing questions and calling on students by name to answer.
4. If presenting case-based scenarios, observe the full group participation to make sure all students are equally engaged. Pose questions of students as needed to prompt further involvement.



## Conducting ITLS Courses Remotely During the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Guidelines for Instructors (continued):

#### *For Patient Assessment Practice and Evaluation*

1. Give students advance notice that they will need a manikin prop to practice on. Encourage students to get creative with their ideas and make it fun! Students can:
  - a. Easily make a victim by stuffing a hoodie and pants to create a full “body” (including a head).
  - b. Use a large doll or stuffed toy.
  - c. Ask a family member to serve as their “victim.” (All procedures are simulated and for assessment only, so the risk of injury is minimal at most.)
2. Demonstrate the Rapid Trauma Survey and Reassessment Exam sequences thoroughly so students understand exactly what they will be tested on. It is always an ITLS best practice to first move through a demonstration of the sequences in real time, then to follow up with a step-by-step slow-time explanation of procedures (the “show them fast, show them slow” model).
3. Allow students time for (offline) practice of the sequences on their own. You may choose to ask students to record a short video of their practice session and send you a link to view the video and provide feedback before their performance for evaluation.
4. Depending on class size and videoconferencing logistics, you may also allow students to practice on-camera in the group setting while you provide guidance and feedback on performance. As the instructor, you will give the student the patient information as they work through the sequences. Other students can observe their classmates and follow along on the patient assessment checklist for additional review.
5. Ensure that the student’s camera is positioned so that you have a full view of the manikin prop. A full-body view is necessary to accurately assess their performance of the Rapid Trauma Survey and Reassessment Exam during practice or testing.
6. Final practical testing should be done one-on-one with the student. Schedule individual testing time slots of about 20 minutes for each student. Advise the students not to join the videoconference until their allotted time slot to allow for privacy. Some videoconference programs have a Waiting Room that can be very useful to coordinate the testing.



## Conducting ITLS Courses Remotely During the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Best Practices for Remote Learning Success

#### Guidelines for Students:

1. You will need a mobile device or a laptop/desktop with microphone and webcam capabilities.
2. Set up in a space that is quiet and free from distractions with sufficient space for patient assessment practice.
3. When joining any videoconference session, ensure that your camera is on at all times and your microphone is muted when you are not speaking.
4. Course completion is based upon your attendance for the full duration of the videoconference. You must have your video on to confirm your participation.
5. Before beginning, your instructor will advise you on their preferred method for taking questions during the videoconference. Options may include:
  - a. Sending a question via the Chat feature (if available)
  - b. Using the Raise Hand feature (if available)
  - c. Waiting until the instructor pauses and invites questions
  - d. Waiting until the end of the presentation
6. For patient assessment practice and evaluation, you will need a manikin prop to demonstrate upon. You can easily make a victim by stuffing a hoodie and pants to create a full body (including a head). You can also use a large doll or stuffed toy or ask a family member to serve as your patient instead.
7. Test your video and audio setup before your evaluation. Ensure that you have the camera situated so that your entire full-body patient assessment demonstration is visible to your instructor.
8. During the evaluation, you will be responsible for performing the steps of the Rapid Trauma Survey and the steps of the Reassessment Exam. Your instructor will give you the patient information as you move through the scenario.