



Bronze Revisions 2021 Update FAQs

May 21, 2021

Q. *Why is the Bronze Revision Update 2021 (the “Update”) required?*

A. Lifesaving Society Manitoba (the “Society”) is a provincial branch of the Royal Life Saving Society Canada (the “RLSSC”). In order to ensure consistent standards across Canada, the RLSSC, along with its provincial branches, regularly reviews current research and scientific evidence to ensure its training, leadership, and public education programs are based upon the most up-to-date information. When required, program content and training standards are reviewed and updated (for example, the updates that occur approximately every 5 years to first aid and CPR standards is based on international research regarding first aid and CPR, which is reviewed every five years).

Recently, research regarding drowning, water rescue skills, and skill progressions has required that the Bronze Medal awards be revised. Accordingly, the Update has been adopted so the RLSSC can ensure its program content and training standards reflect the most current research into drowning, water rescue skills, and skill progressions.

Q. *When must I complete the Update by?*

A. It depends.

If you are teaching or examining Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion or Bronze Cross, the Society requires you to have completed the Update by July 1, 2021.

If you are not teaching or examining Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion or Bronze Cross, the Society requires you to complete your Update when you re-certify your Lifesaving Instructor certifications.

Q. *Then what is the importance of the July 1, 2021 date?*

A. Affiliates (swimming pools, etc.) of the Society must offer the revised Bronze Medals programs to the public as of July 1, 2021. Affiliates will need to ensure that the Lifesaving Instructors they hire to teach and examine Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross after July 1, 2021 have successfully obtained the Update.

Q. *What if my employer is requiring me to take the Update before July 1, 2021, even though I won't ever teach Bronze courses?*

A. The Society is a certifying agency. We determine the content and set the standards for our programs and courses. We do not instruct employers on what their hiring requirements must be. We cannot predict or dictate what employers require of their staff. If you have questions about what your employer requires for your employment qualifications, please speak directly to your employer.

Q. Is my Lifesaving Instructor certification invalid after July 1, 2021, if I have not completed the Update by then?

A. No, it is not invalid. Your Lifesaving Instructor certification is valid until its normal expiry date. However, after July 1, 2021 you cannot teach or examine Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion or Bronze Cross courses until you have completed the Update. If you have not completed your Update, you can still teach and examine Swim for Life, Swim Patrol, Distinction, First Aid, and CPR courses as long as your Lifesaving Instructor certification is not expired.

Q. How do I complete the Update?

A. There are two (2) ways you can complete the Update. We have developed these two (2) methods to make the process easier for you to complete:

1. If your Lifesaving Instructor certification will still be current when you next teach or examine Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion or Bronze Cross:

- Purchase a mandatory Update Package which includes:
 - Bronze Medals Award Guide
 - Bronze Medallion Workbook
 - Bronze Cross Workbook
- Sign-up for a free Toolkit Account to access the videos, written test, and the Update resources.
- Complete the online Update videos and multiple choice written test (usually takes between 90 minutes and 2 hours).
- The cost for the Update is \$40.00 + shipping and GST. This includes the required manuals and the certification processing fee.

NOTE: Instructors must have purchased and picked up the Update Package and passed the written test to receive the mandatory Bronze Revisions 2021 certification.

2. If your Lifesaving instructor certifications are expiring before you will be teaching or examining Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion or Bronze Cross:

- Purchase a mandatory Update Package, which includes:
 - Bronze Medals Award Guide
 - Bronze Medallion Workbook
 - Bronze Cross Workbook
- Attend and pass a Lifesaving and First Aid Instructor Recertification held after April 1, 2021.

Q. Why do I need to purchase books?

A. It is Society policy that Instructors and Examiners have the correct and current award guide, teaching guides and resource manuals when teaching and examining any Society course. This policy is in place to ensure that candidates are taught the correct course content, and evaluated to the current program standards, for the courses they are taking. Moreover, the Society wants to ensure that Instructors and Examiners have access to the necessary reference material, if needed during their activities.

Q. Why can't I share a book with a family member, colleague, or co-worker?

A. The Society has a legal obligation to ensure instructors it certifies have all the competencies and resources required to teach the awards they are certified to teach. The Society cannot predict when or where a given instructor will be teaching and therefore requires that every instructor has received all of the current resource books, and demonstrated an acceptable level of program knowledge before being certified for the Bronze Revisions. This is why the Update process requires every instructor to purchase a set of books, watch the online videos, and complete the online test.

In the case of sharing a book with a family member, colleague, or co-worker the Society cannot assume that the individual you are sharing with will continue to live with/or close to you, remain a colleague, co-worker, or even a friend. Either one of you may change jobs, leave the industry, move to another province, etc. In that case, one of the two individuals no longer has access to the necessary reference

materials that are required to ensure they are teaching to the required standard. Accordingly, the Society requires each individual to have their own copies of the materials.

Q. *If I have proven all the competencies online and passed the test, why are you making me purchase the books as well, which I will not use for my employment?*

A. As set out above, it is Society policy that Instructors and Examiners have the correct and current award guide, teaching guides and resource manuals when teaching and examining any Society course. This policy is in place to ensure that candidates are taught the correct course content, and evaluated to the current program standard, for the courses they are taking.

As the Society cannot predict when or where a given instructor will be teaching, the Society must ensure that every instructor has received a set of books and demonstrated an acceptable level of program knowledge before being certified for the Bronze Revisions. This is why the Update process requires every instructor to purchase a set of books, watch the online videos, and complete the online test.

Q. *What are other provinces charging for their Updates?*

A. Prices do vary across the country. However, the Society has attempted to maintain a cost which is similar to other provinces. For example, Saskatchewan is charging \$60.00 for their updates, which includes books.

Q. *Why is the Update process different in each provincial and territorial branch?*

A. Each provincial and territorial branch has the flexibility to determine how best to ensure that their instructors and examiners are updated on any program revisions. While the Society selected its deadline in consultation with its National Trainers, there are many factors that go into these decisions including:

- the scope of the revisions (how extensive are they and what content has been changed);
- how many instructors and examiners require the update (for example, in Ontario, where they have approximately 20,000 Lifesaving Instructors, the roll out period is necessarily much longer than in Manitoba, where we only have 600 Lifesaving Instructors);
- when all the supporting material is ready;
- when the preferred window for implementation is based on their region;
- factors out of the Society's control (government regulations, pandemics, etc.).

Many provinces have either already completed their own updates or have implemented the same timeframes as Manitoba.

As set out above, we have developed two (2) methods of obtaining the Update that take into consideration the COVID-19 Health Orders for Manitoba to allow flexibility for all instructors across the province of Manitoba to obtain the Update as easily as possible during these times.

Q. *How does the Society notify affiliates and instructors about revisions and other Society news?*

A. The Society uses several methods for communicating with its affiliates and instructors. They include:

- Lifelines – Society's electronic newsletter
- Website
- Online Toolkit
- Social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.

When you are ready to complete the Update, refer to the information and links on the Society Website (www.lifesaving.mb.ca) to help you choose the best method of obtaining the Update that meets your needs. The direct links for the information PDFs are:

<https://lifesaving.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/Bronze-revisions-instructor-info.pdf>

https://lifesaving.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/ExploreBronze_WhatsNew_Instructors.pdf