



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

*The Lifeguarding Experts
Les experts en surveillance aquatique*

LIFESAVING SOCIETY MANITOBA

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Dear Members,

Certification & Recertification Extensions UPDATE

Aquatic facilities in Manitoba could start to reopen effective June 1, 2020. Initially, however, no permission was given by Manitoba Public Health to allow staff training to take place. On June 15, 2020, Lifesaving Society Manitoba received notification from Manitoba Public Health that staff training in aquatic facilities could resume with restrictions:

“Lifeguard training in a group setting may resume. The two metre physical distancing requirement under the public health order applies to businesses that are open to the public. If the space where training is held training is closed to the public and only participants and staff/trainers can attend, the physical distancing requirement is not applicable, except where possible. It is recommend that organizations contact AskHealth at https://forms.gov.mb.ca/Ask_Health/ if they have questions specific to health guidelines related to their training programs.”

As Manitoba Public Health has now allowed recertification training to resume, Lifesaving Society Manitoba is providing an update on the COVID-19 certification extension policy. All Lifesaving Society certifications that are required for employment, with the exception of First Aid certifications, and that expired between March 1, 2020, and September 12, 2020, are extended until September 13, 2020 (see Appendix A).

For all First Aid certifications, the policy established by Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health is in effect. Specifically:

Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health has updated its certification extension policy for all first aid certifications required for employment. It states: Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, Workplace Safety and Health is granting extensions on any workplace first aid certificates that are due to expire between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020. These certificates will now be acceptable in the workplace for 90 days beyond their original expiry date.

Certificates will not be reprinted. Employers and employees do not need to take any actions to qualify for the extensions.

We will work closely with affiliates, instructors, and trainers to help ensure there is capacity to address the anticipated demand for recertifications.

Please continue to follow all public health advice to ensure that you, your family, and our fellow citizens stay safe and healthy! For the most recent information and advice refer to Health Canada, Manitoba Health and local Health Authorities.

Kathy Plett
Program Coordinator
Lifesaving Society Manitoba

Appendix A: Example Certification Extensions

Example 1

Fred's National Lifeguard certification expired on March 15, 2020. As aquatic facilities were closed, Fred could not recertify. Under the current COVID-19 Certification Extension Policy, now that swimming pools are re-opened and re-certifications can occur, Fred has until September 13, 2020 to recertify his National Lifeguard certification if he wants to remain current beyond September 13, 2020. During the period between June 1, 2020 (when pools could re-open) and September 13, 2020, Fred is still considered to hold a current National Lifeguard certification.

Example 2

Sally's National Lifeguard certification expires on August 7, 2020. As pools are allowed to be open, but must restrict class sizes, her National Lifeguard certification is also extended. Like Fred, her National Lifeguard certification is extended to September 13, 2020. During the period between August 7, 2020 and September 13, 2020, Sally is still considered to hold a current National Lifeguard certification.