



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Health

September 6, 2023

Dear OEMS Symposium Registrant:

I am writing to regretfully inform you that the 2023 Virginia EMS Symposium scheduled for November 8-12, 2023, has been cancelled.

The Office of EMS experienced a budget shortfall in the last fiscal year. Our leadership team is re-evaluating all spending in order to ensure that our focus is on our core activity of carrying out essential programs that ensure a comprehensive, coordinated EMS system in the Commonwealth. Due to the cost of the Symposium, which is not an essential program, we have decided to cancel it this year.

We understand that many EMS providers obtain CE hours during the Symposium. There are many other educational opportunities that continue to be available. These include the following resources:

- VectorSolutions - A free online continuing education learning platform: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/provider-resources/vectorsolutions-online-continuing-education/>.
- Additional online education resources: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/provider-resources/web-based-continuing-education/>
- Regional EMS Councils' sponsored education courses: www.vaems.org
- EMS training course locator: <https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=200:4>
- Agencies and organizationally sponsored courses, including those offered by hospitals and other public safety organizations.

In the event you are unable to attain the needed CE hours to re-certify by your expiration date because of the cancellation of the symposium, you may request a variance to the expiration date of your certification. The link to apply for a variance is located at: <https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=LCR:EXCEPTION>

We have developed **FAQs** to provide information regarding reimbursement of registration fees and hotel deposits. Please see the enclosed **FAQs** or email OEMS Director Gary Brown at emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov with questions that are not addressed by the **FAQs**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary R. Brown".

Gary Brown
OEMS Director
Virginia Department of Health

OEMS Symposium 2023 Cancellation FAQs

Will there be a Virginia EMS Symposium next year?

OEMS is currently evaluating all spending in order to ensure that our focus is on our core activity of carrying out essential programs that ensure a comprehensive, coordinated EMS system in the Commonwealth.

If I had planned to attend the Symposium to attain my needed Continuing Education (CE) hours and now I will not be able to certify in time for my renewal, are there options?

Yes, there are still many educational opportunities available, including:

- VectorSolutions - A free online continuing education learning platform: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/provider-resources/vectorsolutions-online-continuing-education/>.
- Additional online education resources: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/provider-resources/web-based-continuing-education/>
- Regional EMS Councils' sponsored education courses: www.vaems.org
- EMS Training Course Locator: <https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=200:4>
- Agencies and organizationally sponsored courses, including those offered by hospitals and other public safety organizations.

If you find that you will not be able to attain the needed hours in time for your renewal, you may request a variance to the expiration date of your certification. The link to apply for the variance is located at: <https://vdhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/f?p=LCR:EXCEPTION>

How will registrants be reimbursed for their registration fees?

Symposium participants who have registered for this year's event will be refunded full registration fees. The administrative fee for cancellation of registration will be waived. OEMS will be working directly with registrants, faculty, and vendors on reimbursements. Contact Accreditation, Certification and Education Division Director Debbie Akers at emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov for specific questions about your registration reimbursement.

How long will it take to receive the registration reimbursement?

Reimbursement for registration payments should occur no later than September 22, 2023.

How will hotel deposits paid through the registration process be reimbursed?

Deposits made to the three host hotels (Norfolk Waterside Marriott, Sheraton Waterside Norfolk and Hilton Norfolk The Main) will be refunded to the credit card used when confirming the original reservation. Please reach out to the host hotel regarding your hotel reservation cancellation and deposit refund.

What if I scheduled my hotel separately from Symposium registration?

If you handled your hotel reservation personally with any of the three host hotels or other area hotels, **you are** responsible for your cancellation. Please reach out directly to the hotel to cancel your reservation.

How will the 2023 Governor's EMS Award winners be recognized?

We are still considering an alternative plan for recognizing the 2023 Governor's EMS Award winners.

How will instructor reimbursement occur?

For questions about instructor reimbursements, contact Accreditation, Certification and Education Division Director Debbie Akers at emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov.

How will vendors and sponsors be reimbursed?

For questions about vendor reimbursements, contact Vendor Hall Manager Marcia Pescitani, marcia@vaems.org, 703-615-6595.

For questions about sponsorship reimbursements, contact Fiscal Agent Sandi McGrath at sshort@vaems.org.