



March 6, 2019

CAPT Derek Newcomer, DrPH
Acting Director, Division of Occupational Health and Safety
Building 13, Room 3K04
13 South Drive, MSC 5760
Bethesda, MD 20892-5760

NIH AHA Volunteer Basic Life Support Instructors

Dear Sir or Madam

On behalf of the Office of Research Services, Division of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS), I sincerely thank you for volunteering to serve as a NIH American Heart Association (AHA), Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructor. Your desire to share your expertise, professionalism and collaborate with the DOHS and Clinical Center Nursing Department is truly commendable.

While we are delighted to assist you in becoming or continuing to be a certified volunteer BLS Instructor as outlined within the most current Emergency Cardiovascular Care Program Administration Manual Guidelines (PAM) for Program Administration and Training, we also encourage you to share your specialized knowledge and resources to educate and promote healthy living i.e. assist your workplace in offering healthier food and beverage options to promote a healthy food environment; share healthy living tips and perform health screenings at events; and give encouragement and tips to heart and stroke patients, families and caretakers.

Again, I sincerely appreciate your dedication and enthusiasm in becoming or continuing to be a certified volunteer BLS Instructor through NIH; and helping us build consensus of the importance of basic life support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek Newcomer".

Attachment
FAQs

DEREK NEWCOMER, DrPH
CAPT, US Public Health Service

OVERVIEW

What is BLS training?

ANSWER: Basic Life Support, or BLS, generally refers to the type of care that first-responders, healthcare providers and public safety professionals provide to anyone who is experiencing cardiac arrest, respiratory distress or an obstructed airway. It requires knowledge and skills in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), using automated external defibrillators (AED) and relieving airway obstructions in patients of every age.

What basic guidelines are used for training?

ANSWER: The NIH uses the most current version of the American Heart Association, Emergency Cardiovascular Care, Program Administration Manual (PAM) for Program Administration and Training. An example, may be viewed at http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/ahaecc-public/@wcm/@ecc/documents/downloadable/ucm_502747.pdf

TARGET AUDIENCE

Who is the intended audience for BLS Instructor Training?

ANSWER: Basic Life Support training and certification is commonly required of Health Care professionals and other working professionals whose jobs or volunteer positions place them at risk for needing to provide CPR to a co-worker or visitor.

BECOMING A VOLUNTER AHA BLS INSTRUCTOR AT NIH

How do I become a Volunteer AHA BLS Instructor at NIH?

ANSWER: There are many requirements set forth by the American Heart Association that one would need to meet before you can become a Basic Life Support instructor. You must demonstrate exceptional Basic Life Support skills and a willingness to be a volunteer instructor with the NIH Training Center. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Volunteer AHA Basic Life Support instructor for the NIH Training Center, please email dohscprtraining@mail.nih.gov or Michael Dunn, Training Center Coordinator (TCC) at dunnm2@mail.nih.gov or call (301) 496-2960

I am already a Volunteer AHA BLS Instructor at NIH, how do I maintain my status?

ANSWER: To maintain your status as an NIH Basic Life Support instructor, you must meet all the requirements for BLS Instructors set forth by the American Heart Association and the NIH Training Center. You will find these in your PAM and in your BLS instructor manual. In addition to those requirements, the NIH Training Center requires that you teach at minimum three (3) classes per year. The NIH Training Center also reserves the right to restrict where those classes occur based upon NIH population needs, training equipment available, and suitability of the training location. The final determination of course location suitability rests with the NIH Training Center. The American Heart Association and the NIH Training Center do require that all instructors are monitored a minimum of once every two (2) year recertification cycle by the Training Center Faculty and each instructor attend the mandatory annual instructor update.

POINT OF CONTACT

Who should I contact if I have additional questions or concerns?

ANSWER: You should always consult the TCC at NIH as your first point of contact i.e., Michael Dunn, TCC, at dunnm2@mail.nih.gov or call (301) 496-2960.