

July 29, 2020

Dr. Dasia Merriweather  
Westlink Career Institute  
700 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Westlink Career Institute Reopening Plan and Contingencies for Continuity During the  
Covid-19 Emergency

Dr. Merriweather,

Thank you for submitting the *Westlink Career Institute's Reopening Plan of Operations with Contingencies* to the DC Health EMS Program. We appreciate your diligence in planning for EMS education operations during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

The DC Health EMS Program strongly encourages all EMS Agencies and EMS Educational Institutions to follow current regulations, policies, and guidelines issued by the Mayor and/or the Government of the District of Columbia. Due to the nature of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, recommended and required practices for PPE, sanitation, and other activities are constantly evolving. It is the responsibility of the EMS Agency or Institutions to remain abreast of any changes to DC laws, regulations, policies, or guidelines and to remain compliant.

Though the DC Health EMS Program does not provide specific review of internal operational policies, the Program does actively regulate EMS course content and presentation. The EMS Program stresses the importance of practical and hands-on experience in the learning process for the EMS professions. Through this, the current position of the DC Health EMS program is that, for the duration of the declared COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, EMS Educational Institutions may present no more than 50% of EMS course synchronous or asynchronous content in a "virtual" or "online" format to include but not limited to via Webex, Zoom, Google Meet, conference call, learning management system (LMS), or other webinar/video call format. All skills instruction and evaluation must be completed hands-on and in-person.

We look forward to your Institution meeting these above requirements while safely resuming the valuable service of educating EMS Providers in the District. Feel free to reach out with additional questions.



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EMS Program Manager

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