

Guidelines for Conducting COT Trauma Education Courses

In-person courses will continue to require modifications to accommodate physical distancing and other safety precautions. To support course sites globally, the American College of Surgeons and the Committee on Trauma are providing the following guidelines; however, all sites should comply with local rules and regulations governing in-person events.

All participants have a right to feel safe in the classroom.

General Considerations

- Provide explicit pre-course communication of expectations to all participants (Students and Faculty). Explain the physical distancing and infection control precautions that will be taken, as well as the policy for refusal to follow stated precautions (e.g., removal from course).
- Notify participants of the routine screening (e.g., taking a temperature, completing a questionnaire) that is part of your institutional protocol.
- Participants who do not feel well should stay home. Participants who are ill should be requested to leave.
- Buffet style food, shared utensils, beverages (including a group coffee/tea service), are not recommended. Food should be boxed or individually wrapped. Beverages should be individually bottled.
- Food consumption should not take place in the classroom. A separate space should be offered where students can eat/drink. Ensure this space is large enough to accommodate physical distancing, as participants will have to remove their masks.
- Participants should wear masks at all times, except when eating or drinking. Course sites should provide gloves for skill stations.
- *Anyone refusing to follow the above safety guidelines, and local rules and regulations, should be asked to leave the course.*

Interactive Discussions (IAD) and Course Lectures

- IAD should be held in venues large enough to allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- Sites may consider using video conferencing (e.g., WebEx, Teams, Zoom, or another platform) to complete the IAD. This may be completed in one day, or over several days.
- Masks should be worn at all times.

Skill Stations/Dry Lab

- Maintain student-to-faculty ratios, as outlined in the administrative guide for each course. Larger stations are not recommended by Senior Educators and make physical distancing more difficult.

- Ensure Skill Station rooms are large enough to allow learners and instructor(s) to maintain appropriate physical distancing.
- Where applicable, participants should be at a task trainer or simulation station one at a time. Ensure adequate cleaning between each student, and adequate physical distancing between instructor and student.
- Some “team” type skills in the ATLS (Advanced Trauma Life Support) and TEAM (Trauma Evaluation and Management) courses may temporarily be taught with video rather than hands-on practice. This may include pelvic immobilization, log roll, traction splint, and helmet removal.
- Skill stations in the ATLS Course such as Adjuncts, Secondary Survey, and Team Training/Initial Assessment may be conducted as a small group interactive discussion with appropriate physical distancing.

Surgical/Wet Lab

- Appropriate PPE should be worn at all times.
- Physical distancing requirements should be maintained at all times.
- Student numbers should be kept low to allow for adequate physical distancing in the lab.

Initial Assessment (IA) Testing (ATLS)

- Mannequins or other simulators may be substituted for moulage “victims.”
- If using live moulage patients, “victims” should wear masks at all times, have no physical contact with course participants, and maintain appropriate physical distancing.
- Options:
 - IA may be conducted as usual with PPE and frequent hand sanitizing.
 - IA may be conducted with a mannequin that is thoroughly cleaned between sessions. Instructors and students should wear masks and gloves.
 - In extreme cases, IA may be conducted in a manner like the oral boards. The instructor would provide the scenario and responses to maneuvers, but no “victim” would be involved. This may be completed via video conferencing, if necessary.

Written Pretests, Posttests

- Pretests can be taken online. ATLS, RTTDC, DMEP, and ATOM have online systems that provide access to the pretest.
- Written posttests should be conducted in a space large enough to allow for adequate physical distancing. In the case of participants needing to take remedial exams for courses with written posttests, these can be proctored remotely. Please contact atls@facs.org to discuss this type of option. The ATOM course is currently the only program with an online posttest.

Course Specific Recommendations

Available solutions for each course component are listed in the charts below. **You can choose which method works best for your site. If in doubt, please email staff at the addresses specified under each course.**



	Interactive Discussions	Skill Stations*	Triage Scenarios, Pre-test discussion	Initial Assessment Testing**	Written Posttest
Traditional Student Course	In-person Video conference	In-person	In-person Video conference	In-person	In-person Remote proctored <i>(for remedial only)</i>
Hybrid Student Course	Online modules (eLearning course)	In-person	In-person Video conference	In-person	In-person Remote proctored <i>(for remedial only)</i>
Student Refresher Course	In-person (content overview) Video conference	In-person	In-person Video conference	In-person	In-person Remote proctored <i>(for remedial only)</i>
Instructor Course – Read additional guidelines for Instructor Courses	In-person Video Conference Remote Educator via Video conference	In-person Remote Educator via Video conference	n/a	In-person Remote Educator via Video conference	n/a

**Some team type skills (e.g., pelvic immobilization, log roll, traction splint, helmet removal, adjuncts, secondary survey, Team Training/Initial Assessment) may be completed via video or as small interactive discussions with appropriate physical distancing.*

***In extreme cases, these may be conducted like the oral boards via video conference.*



TEAM™

TRAUMA EVALUATION
& MANAGEMENT

For questions about the TEAM course, contact atls@facs.org.

DMED™

DISASTER MANAGEMENT &
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

	Interactive Discussions/Lectures	Interactive Scenarios I-III	Posttest
Student Course 1-Day	In-person	In-person	In-person
	Video conference	Video conference	Online

For samples of how Course Sites have held the DMED course 100% online, contact COTDisaster@facs.org.

rttdc™

RURAL TRAUMA TEAM
DEVELOPMENT COURSE

	Interactive Discussions	Team Performance Scenarios/Skill Stations	Posttest
Student Course 1-Day	In-person	In-person	In-person
	Some options for video		

At this time, the RTTDC Workgroup recommends that courses be held live and in-person. This may require limited participant numbers to maintain proper physical distancing and infection control procedures. Any proposal for a partially remote/virtual course should be sent to rttdc@facs.org for review by the RTTDC Director and Work Group.



ASSET™

ADVANCED SURGICAL SKILLS
FOR EXPOSURE IN TRAUMA

	Pretest & Posttest	Surgical Lab – Lab presentation, exposures
ASSET Student Course 1-Day	In-person	In-person
ASSET+ Course 2-Day	In-person	In-person

For questions about the ASSET program, contact ASSET@facs.org.

ATOM™

ADVANCED TRAUMA
OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

	Lectures/Discussion	Pretest & Posttest	Lab
Student Course	In-person Video conference	Online	In-person

For questions about the ATOM program, contact ATOM@facs.org.



	Lectures/Discussion	Dry Lab	Wet Lab
BEST Workshop	In-person	In-person	In-person
BEST Course	In-person	In-person	In-person

For questions about the BEST program, contact BEST@facs.org.