



Emergency Medical Responder

BC High Schools Program

Version 1.1

September 2025 – June 2026 Academic Year

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Welcome

Columbia Learning Group is pleased to be supporting BCEHS and the BC High School Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Program starting with the 2025-26 academic year. We recognize the tremendous value in having high schools offer this program to their students as a unique introduction to paramedicine that can provide a head start on potentially pursuing a career in this high demand field. It is an enriching and rewarding experience which encourages both critical thinking and care for others, while teaching essential skills that ultimately save lives.

We see this program as a unique partnership between your school, BCEHS and Columbia, and are excited to have the opportunity to contribute to its success. Between ourselves and BCEHS, your school will have access to a wealth of resources when it comes to instructor support, equipment sourcing, licensing session preparation and much more.

Who We Are

Columbia Learning Group ('Columbia') is the parent company to three of the largest first aid, medical responder and paramedic training institutions in BC. These include:



Columbia Medical Training (CMT), based in Langley and operating in communities throughout the province using a mix of permanent and temporary facilities. CMT leads delivery of our Medical Responder Programs (MRP), including First Responder and Emergency Medical Responder.



Heartsafe (HSE) is a recognized WorkSafe BC Training Agency based in Victoria. It is a leading provider of MRP programs in the region while also delivering Workplace First Aid courses (formerly 'Occupational First Aid') at our facilities and through our Training Affiliates.



Columbia Paramedic Academy (CPA) is headquartered in Langley. It trains more than half of all new PCP and ACP paramedics at 10 different locations throughout our province each year.

Support

When your school chooses to become a Training Affiliate, you will gain access to supports from all three of our organizations. As an example, CMT will provide you with access to our proven EMR curriculum and resources. CPA can provide support in your classrooms with Instructor Development and, in many locations, by sending in PCP or ACP student volunteers to help with delivery. Heartsafe can provide your graduates with an Advanced First Aid (formerly OFA 3) ticket with no further training needed.

These are just some of the ways that Columbia's established programs can support your school with delivering this program.

About Our EMR Program

Columbia's Emergency Medical Responder program is delivered throughout the province, both by our organization and numerous Training Affiliate schools and organizations (ex. Fire Departments, Colleges, etc.).

The standard EMR program is 3 weeks long and includes all available endorsements for the EMR license level, including those recently added through the scope update of 2023.

The high school version that your school will deliver contains all the same content as the standard version, but has been broken into shorter modules that fit into common high school schedules and is intended to be delivered over a standard high school semester. There are no other differences between the standard program and the high school version.

Key Features

- Courses are designed to be run with 12 students, which is also the size of our publicly delivered EMR courses.
 - Schools may vary class sizes to their specific situation (ex. instructor experience, student demand, facility space, etc.), however all courses must have a minimum of 5 students and are allowed a maximum of 16 under the terms of our program's EMALB recognition.
- The program includes 140 hours of instruction, including a 20-hour self-paced online component followed by 120 hours of in-person instruction.

- Upon passing the course students are eligible to attend EMALB licensing sessions and, once successfully completed, receive all Schedule 1 and 2 endorsements on their license.
 - Please note that the minimum age to license with EMALB is 16 years of age. License holders who are 16, 17 or 18 must be supervised by a fully licensed emergency medical assistant of the same level or higher who is at least 19 years old. This condition is automatically removed when a license holder turns 19.
- Teachers already trained to instruct EMR programs with other providers will have their instructor credentials recognized, while those new to the EMR program will have several pathways open to them based on their experience. Please see Appendix C for more information on the pathways.

Appendix A: Courses and Fees

Course Fees

Emergency Medical Responder (High School Program)

\$240 + GST / per student

CPR BLS

\$15 + GST / per student

- Fees are based on the class roster on the first day of the course.
- Fees include access to standard course learning materials, a program t-shirt for each student, as well as certifications for successful students.
- Fees do not include the required course textbook, which each student must have access to, printed or electronic version is acceptable, for the duration of training. Textbooks (electronic or printed) can be ordered directly from the publisher, Pearson. We utilize ***Emergency Medical Responder: A Skills Approach, 5th Canadian Edition (ISBN-13: 9780137595341) | Published 2021***
 - [PUBLISHER PURCHASE LINK](#)
- The CPR BLS fee is only included if the school wishes graduates to have a separate Columbia CPR BLS certificate at graduation. If the school district does not want this separate credential, OR if students complete a different CPR program (ex. “Red Cross”, “Heart & Stroke”, etc.) then no CPR fee will be assessed.

Annual Fees

For the High School program our annual fees are waived.

Appendix B: Required Equipment

Overview

There are 4 key equipment “kits” required to deliver the EMR program, as well as a list of standard supplies. The list below includes equipment required for the legacy programs, as well as the new program that includes full Schedule 1 and 2 endorsements.

Jump Kits	1 kit : 4 students	(1 kit : 3 students ideal)
AED Trainers	1 AED : 1 jump kit	
Airway Kits	1 kit : 4 student	(1 kit : 3 students ideal)
Entonox Kits	1 kit : 1 jump kit	
Trauma Kits	1 kit : 4 students	

The following equipment list may appear overwhelming for schools considering this program. However, various support options are available to help mitigate the substantial initial and ongoing costs associated with these programs. These options include collaborating with BCEHS/government PDC to obtain items at a low or no cost, sourcing free supplies from local pharmacies, partnering with nearby first aid and paramedic schools to borrow equipment temporarily, and more. Both BCEHS and Columbia are willing and keen to offer guidance and assistance in this regard, so please reach out when you begin procuring your equipment and supplies.

Jump Kits

** Items below are # per kit, unless otherwise noted*

Jump Bag or Pelican Case	1	Metered Dose Inhaler Trainer	1
Burn Dressings (Various Sizes)	1	Mouldable Splint	2
Abdominal Dressings	2	Pocket Mask	1
Pressure Dressings	1	Assorted Wound Closures	6
Tensor Bandages	1	Adult Blood Pressure Cuff	1
Roller Gauze	2	Triangular Bandages	2
Cold Pack	1	Non-Allergenic Tape	1
Sterile Gauze	4	Thermometer	1

Non-Stick Sterile Dressings	4
Trauma Dressings	1
Combat Applied Tourniquet (CAT)	2
Elastic (Zap) Straps	4
Pen Light	1
Glucose (oral required, nasal ideal)	2
Tongue Depressors	2
Naloxone (nasal or vials*)	1
* IM needles (only if using vials for naloxone)	1

Pulse Oximeter	1
Trauma shears	1
Saline (Rinse wounds) (4 - 15ml or equivalent)	4
Suction (Manual or electronic) with tubing & catheters	1
Non-Sterile Dressings	10
Antiseptic Towelettes	4
Epinephrine Auto-Injector Trainer	1
ASA bottle	1
Nitroglycerin SL spray (placebo)	1

Airway Kits

* Items below are # per kit, unless otherwise noted

Oxygen bag (Red)	1:1 jump kit	Adult non-rebreather mask (NRB)	1
Oxygen tank	1	Adult nasal cannula	1
Tank regulator	1	Adult bag valve mask	1
Set of nasopharyngeal airway (NPAs) & lubricant	1	Set of adult oropharyngeal airways (OPAs)	1

Plus:

- The instructor should have access to one of each of the following to show students each device (size), but you are not required to have these stocked in each kit:
 - o Child size OPAs, NRB, BVM
 - o Infant size BVM

Entonox Kits

* Items below are # per kit, unless otherwise noted

Entonox bag (Blue)		1:1 jump kit		Demand valve regulator		1
Entonox tank		1		Bite stick		1
Tank key		1		One-way connector		

Note:

The demand regulators and Entonox branded equipment for these kits are extremely expensive. While the list above is the “gold standard”, it is acceptable to use low-cost alternatives so long as they are high-fidelity. Common examples of this include using oxygen demand regulators in place of Entonox brand ones, and using oxygen tanks in place of dedicated Entonox tanks.

Trauma Kits

** Items below are # per kit, unless otherwise noted*

Clamshell		1		Collars (adult)		2
Sandbags		2		Headbed & Foam Pad		2
Sagar splint		1		Blanket		1
Pelvic binding device		1		Elastic (Zap) straps		4

Plus:

- The instructor will need to have 1 helmet (min., 2 is ideal) per class to practice helmet removal

Supplies

IV Saline Bags(250cc or >)		1 per student, plus 1 for demo
Adult IV Administration set (10gtts)		1 per student, plus 1 for demo
Adult CPR manikin		1 : 1 jump kit
Junior (child) CPR manikin		1 : 1 jump kit
Infant CPR manikin		1 : 1 jump kit
Birthing manikin		1 : 2 jump kits
Ferno 35-A stretcher (or equivalent)		1 : class
Stairchair		1 : class
Injection pad for IM training		1 : jump kit
Simdose ampules		2 : student
Vanish Point IM syringes (1cc)		2 : student
Sharps container (large)		1 : classroom

Plus:

- Projector or TV capable of connecting to a computer to display PowerPoints, videos and quiz games in class
- Whiteboard(s) and markers
- EMR patient care forms
- Gloves (enough sizes and boxes to allow students to don PPE every simulation)

Note:

- For the stretcher and Stairchair, students are only required to be oriented to the devices, so if your school has the ability to borrow from a local paramedic class, or to arrange a visit from BCEHS paramedics, as an example, that is sufficient.

Appendix C: Instructor Certification Pathways

Pathway 1: Teacher with Existing EMR Instructor Certification

Qualifications:

- Holds a current (not-expired) instructor certificate for the EMR license level, or higher, from an organization that has an EMALB recognized EMR program

Process:

- Attends a program orientation session, typically held 2-3 weeks prior to start of high school semester. Offered virtually, typically in late afternoon or evening.

Pathway 2: Teacher with EMR Certificate or License

Qualifications:

- Holds a current (not-expired) certificate or EMALB license at the EMR level, or higher.

Process:

- Attends a program orientation session, typically held 2-3 weeks prior to start of high school semester. Offered virtually, typically in late afternoon or evening.
- Completes 2 additional hours (minimum) of 1:1 time with Columbia Lead Instructor reviewing the material and lesson planning. No cost for this meeting.

Pathway 3: Teacher who does not hold an EMR Certificate or License

Qualifications:

- Holds a current (not-expired) certificate or EMALB license at the EMR level, or higher.

Process:

- Completes an EMR course with any EMALB recognized school. No charge to attend a Columbia course where space exists.

- Attends a program orientation session, typically held 2-3 weeks prior to start of high school semester. Offered virtually, typically in late afternoon or evening.
- Completes 2 additional hours (minimum) of 1:1 time with Columbia Lead Instructor reviewing the material and lesson planning. No cost for this meeting.

Requirement for All Instructors

Ministerial Order 292/2022 significantly expanded the scope of practice for all levels of medical responder and paramedic in our province, including EMR. Many instructors completed their initial training as EMRs, as well as their instructor training, prior to this expansion, meaning they have not been trained on the new scope.

As the expanded scope is included in the program, all instructors must complete upgrade training prior to instructing the full program. Training through any EMALB recognized program is acceptable. Note that at this time Columbia Learning has an EMALB recognized EMR scope update course, but we are not delivering it publicly due to low demand. The JIBC has an excellent course which we highly recommend for any instructors who still need this training.