

## Virginia Quality COVID-19 Update - August 2020

- **Current Level 4/5 programs:**
  - Expiration dates for all programs that were Level 4 or 5 as of March 1st 2020, will be extended through June 30th, 2021.
  - To maintain active program status, Level 4 & 5 programs will need to continue to work on their quality improvement plans.
- **New Level 4/5 applications:**
  - Level 3 programs that would like to apply for Level 4/5 during the 2020-2021 year will continue to have the option to do so, provided the on-site observation can be conducted in accordance with all state/local health and safety guidelines.
  - Programs and Raters will be provided with additional information and guidance about how to prioritize health and safety while maintaining the reliability of CLASS/ERS prior to conducting in-person observations.
- **Current Level 1-3 programs:**
  - Applications and renewals that require online documentation review only, will continue to be processed following normal procedures.
  - Standard Level 3 applications - All Curriculum & Assessment validation visits will continue to be conducted virtually following the Virtual Validation Visit guidance provided in May 2020.
- **Quality Improvement Plans (QIP):**
  - All current QIPs should be reviewed during the 1st Quarter and adjusted if needed due to changes in program operations due to COVID.
  - Progress on QIP goals should continue to be monitored quarterly (every 3 months)
  - QIP guidance can be found [HERE](#).
- **Training and Technical Assistance** – During the 2020-2021 year, state and regional VA Quality staff will continue to provide a variety of virtual training and technical assistance opportunities in alignment with VA Quality Standards.
  - In most cases, virtual TA is recommended. However, regions are currently permitted to provide on-site TA, provided that the TA request is best addressed by an on-site visit and is conducted following all state & local health and safety guidelines.
  - Programs should continue to initiate a request for TA by using the 'TA Request' button in the [ACCESS](#) website. (If a program is specifically requesting on-site TA, they should indicate this along with the reason why an on-site visit is needed via the online TA request form).
  - [Virginia Quality Learnpoint Modules](#) will continue to remain open and available for VA Quality staff and programs to use as needed.

Questions about regional virtual training and TA support should be sent to [VA Quality Regional Coordinators](#).

Questions or concerns about the VA Quality application process or health and safety practices during on-site observations & TA visits, should be sent to the Virginia Quality Hub at [qris@vecf.org](mailto:qris@vecf.org)