



Interim Process for PATH Intl. Accreditation Site Visits

To meet the needs of PATH Intl. member centers wishing to accredit and reaccredit within the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, PATH Intl. and the PATH Intl. Accreditation Committee have developed an interim virtual site visit process to allow accreditation site visits to resume.

There were several factors that lead to the decision to develop a virtual site visit process, first and most importantly, was consideration for the safety and wellbeing of center personnel and site visitors due to the ongoing uncertainty of the COVID-19 variants. Additionally, due to the need to put site visits on hold, there is a high quantity of centers who have already submitted accreditation applications and many additional centers with lapse dates into 2022. The interim virtual process resumes visits in a timely, safe and fiscally responsible manner. This interim process will continue to support the quality, integrity and excellence of the accreditation program.

The virtual site visit process will begin in January 2022.

Requirements for Virtual and In-Person Site Visits

To support the quality of the accreditation program, not every center will be eligible for a virtual site visit.

- **First Time Accrediting Centers**

Centers that are applying for their first accreditation must have an in-person site visit. To ensure the quality of the accreditation program, there are no exceptions for centers pursuing their first accreditation.

- **Centers Applying for Reaccreditation**

Determining the eligibility for a virtual site visit will be based on the center's last site visit.

- Centers that earned premier accreditation with a passing score of 90% or more on their last site visit will have a virtual site visit.
 - Centers that meet the requirements for a virtual site visit but wish to have an in-person site visit will be required to pay for all site visitor expenses. The accreditation application must indicate that the center is requesting an in-person visit.
- Centers that passed with a score lower than 90 percent or passed on appeal can request a virtual site visit. The Accreditation Committee will review the request and determine eligibility. The center representative will be notified of the decision.
- Centers that did not pass their last accreditation site visit, or did not pass on appeal, will be required to have an in-person site visit. Centers that chose to go through the accreditation process a second time and passed will still be required to have an in-person site visit.

Centers That Have Already Submitted an Accreditation Application

Centers that have already submitted their applications for accreditation/reaccreditation have been put on a waiting list. Those on the waiting list will be emailed an updated application to complete (no additional fee will be required). The centers on the waiting list will have their visits scheduled in the order that the application was received. Centers are still required to have passed the PATH Intl. Standards Course within a year of the site visit. We recognize that many centers will need to take the course again. An updated application should reflect the need to take the 2021 Standards Course. The 2021 PATH Intl. Standards Course will be provided to the center representative for no additional charge.

In-Person Site Visit Procedures

Site visits for an in-person visit will follow the accreditation process outlined in the PATH Intl. Accreditation and Reaccreditation Booklet. The booklet can be found on the PATH Intl. website or by clicking [here](#).

Virtual Site Visit Procedures

The detailed virtual site visit process documentation is in development and when complete will include a booklet and webinar. A general overview of the new process can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Additional Preparation Resources

The resources in development by the PATH Intl. Accreditation Committee to assist centers in preparing for the virtual site visit will include:

- Links for how to videos for Zoom, Skype and Google Meet
- How to prepare a quality walk-through video(s)
- How to best utilize the preparation checklist
- The PATH Intl. Accreditation Committee will conduct a live webinar to assist centers with the process. The webinar will be recorded and available to centers for free.

PATH Intl. is pleased to offer this option for centers wishing to pursue PATH Intl. Premier Accreditation as we continue to navigate these everchanging times.