Video-supervised online exam sessions

A very few ARRL VE Teams have successfully conducted in-person exam sessions (following social distancing guidelines) and video-supervised exam sessions using fillable PDF exams and documents. So far, we have found that both types of sessions take our volunteer teams 2 to 3 times longer to conduct and accommodate less candidates than pre-Covid-19 sessions. To this point, the video sessions have only included one examinee per session.

We ask the community to be patient with our volunteer teams as they navigate unchartered territory. Please remember, with the introduction of significant new processes such as these, there should be proof of concept, establishing protocols and procedures, and beta testing before expanding to a larger audience. Video-supervised exam sessions require a different skillset than giving exams in person. Not all teams will be equipped to deliver video exams immediately.

In addition, the ARRL VEC has been investigating options for an online examination system.

Fillable PDFs are cumbersome to the video-supervised exam session process. We recognize that online testing would be a large-scale solution for our thousands of volunteer examiners and would make session procedures easier for our teams, but this will not happen overnight.

The ARRL VEC will continue to adapt and respond to the evolving crisis, as we search for a viable and easy to use online examination system and conduct exam sessions in new and innovative ways.