



422 South Fifth Street, Fourth Floor • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1824 • www.dph.illinois.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Illinois EMS Medical Directors
Illinois EMS System Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Jason Kegg, MD
EMS Medical Director
Ashley Thoele, MSN, MBA, RN
Division Chief, EMS and Highway Safety

DATE: September 2, 2020

RE: Paramedic, EMT-I, AEMT Administration of Vaccines in an approved Vaccination program

The Illinois Department of Public Health's Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Highway Safety recognizes the need to begin planning for mass vaccinations at the state and local levels. EMS providers may want to begin working with their EMS System to plan for their own vaccination programs. In the past, vaccine administration has not been considered part of the routine scope of practice of EMS providers in Illinois. Most often EMS providers have provided care in emergency situations and not elective or preventative care. In 2017, the Illinois Department of Public Health provided additional Illinois Scope of Practice Standards that exceed the National EMS Education Standards. These additional areas of education are required to be provided by all educational programs approved within the state of Illinois and have been added to the core knowledge tested by the State of Illinois EMS licensure exams provided by the National Registry examination for Paramedics.

Although within the scope of practice for paramedics, vaccine administration is not in the current scope of practice for licensed EMT-I's and AEMTs. During the declared state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EMT-I's and AEMTs, through the current disaster declaration may administer vaccinations in an EMS Medical Director approved vaccination program.

Any Illinois EMS System interested in beginning to use Illinois-licensed Paramedics, EMT-I's, or AEMTs for vaccine administration must do so under the approval of the EMS System Medical Director (EMS MD) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Division of EMS. This plan can include agency personnel vaccine administration and community vaccination programs.

A system plan for vaccine administration must be developed and include, at a minimum:

1. A written policy outlining the types of vaccines being administered.
2. A training program for paramedics, EMT-I's, or AEMTs that includes administration, documentation, and education about vaccine side effects or adverse reactions.
3. Communication plans for when paramedics, EMT-I's, or AEMTs will be used for vaccine administration and where they will be administering the vaccines.
4. A quality assurance plan for tracking and documenting the use of paramedics, EMT-I's, or AEMTs for vaccine administration.
5. Annual continuing education for paramedics, EMT-I's, or AEMTs as it relates to vaccine administration and medication education.
6. At this time, no person under 6 years of age may receive a vaccination from an Illinois licensed Paramedic, EMT-I, or AEMT.

Additionally, EMS Systems should consider the need for just-in-time training that may specifically address the type of medication being administered and the manufacturer recommended patient education. This education may vary based on manufacturer.

This information and the requirements for EMS personnel to administer vaccines in an EMS MD approved vaccination program is subject to change based on any future guidance from IDPH and other state and federal partners.