

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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DATE: November 12, 2021

TO: Local EMS Agency Administrators and Medical Directors

FROM: Dave Duncan MD
Director, EMS Authority

Subject: COVID-19 EMS Vaccines – Updated Patient Age Guidance

This addendum modifies the patient age range for COVID-19 vaccinations, to be administered by Paramedics.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has expanded the age range for patients approved to receive specified COVID-19 vaccines to include pediatric patients five (5) to eleven (11) years of age. To assist with the expanded scope of local vaccine campaigns, local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSA) may authorize Paramedics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to patients five (5) to eleven (11) years of age under their existing Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP).

Participating LEMSAs shall continue to coordinate with local public health officials to ensure compliance and coordination with local vaccination programs. The LEMSAs shall ensure specialized training is conducted, and treatment protocols are updated, for this special patient population. The training shall include, but not be limited to, allergy or anaphylaxis complications, pediatric dosing, and lateral thigh intramuscular injection site considerations. The LEMSAs shall also ensure local trainings, policies, and procedures are updated to reflect the modification to the COVID-19 vaccination scope of practice.

If you have any additional questions, please contact ScopeofPractice@emsa.ca.gov.