

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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DATE: January 10, 2022

TO: Local EMS Agency Administrators and Medical Directors

FROM: Hernando Garzon MD
Acting Medical Director, EMSA

Subject: **Emergency Medical Service Personnel Expanded Scope of Practice Response & Authorizations to Treat Patients Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic and Influenza – Comprehensive Summary**

This memo is provided to summarize the current California Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)/ Advanced EMT (AEMT), and Paramedic personnel scope of practice waivers and authorizations to treat patients impacted by COVID-19, pursuant to Governor Office Executive Order (EOs) [N-39-20](#) paragraph 6, extended and clarified by EO's [N-12-21](#), [N-21-21](#), [N-08-21](#), and [N-25-20](#).

This memo supersedes the following prior Emergency Medical Service Authority (EMSA) memos:

- [COVID-19 Vaccination LOSOPs – Pediatric Patients Memo](#), dated 11/12/21
- [EMT COVID Vaccination Authorization Memo – Additional Guidance](#), dated 03/04/21
- [Expanded Scope of Practice – Paramedic Monoclonal Antibody Infusion/Monitoring Memo](#), dated 11/12/21
- [EMS COVID Vaccination Memo – Patient Age \(12 and Older\) Guidance](#), dated 05/28/21

Items in italics are newly authorized scope of practices.

Paramedics are authorized to do the following:

- Provide services in any setting (static sites) and transport patients to medical facilities other than acute care hospitals when approved by the EMSA.
 - Provide COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations to children \geq 5-11 years of age, and individuals 12 years and older based on U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines.
 - Participating Local EMS Agencies (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.

- LEMSAs shall have policies in place to ensure only paramedics or healthcare workers with a higher scope of practice are responsible for preparing vaccines for administration.
- Conduct oropharyngeal and/or nasopharyngeal COVID-19 and Influenza testing.
- Conduct Monoclonal Antibody administrations. LEMSA or local public health will ensure Paramedics shall receive training and education in therapies, and administration protocols, etc.

EMTs and AEMTs are authorized to do the following with LEMSA accreditation authorization:

- Provide services in any setting (static sites) and transport patients to medical facilities other than acute care hospitals.
- *Provide COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations to children \geq 5-11 years of age, and individuals 12 years and older based on U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention CDC and FDA guidelines.*
- LEMSAs approved for Paramedic, AEMT, and EMT COVID-19 Vaccine Administration shall limit AEMTs and EMTs to COVID-19 vaccine administration only. AEMTs and EMTs are not permitted to mix or draw up COVID-19 vaccines for administration. LEMSAs shall have policies in place to ensure only paramedics or healthcare workers with a higher scope of practice are responsible for preparing vaccines for administration. AEMTs and EMTs shall continue to administer the COVID-19 vaccines to patients and assist with other aspects of vaccine campaigns as defined in LEMSA policies and procedure.
- 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.
- LEMSAs shall have policies in place to ensure only paramedics or healthcare workers with a higher scope of practice are responsible for preparing vaccines for administration.

- Conduct oropharyngeal and/or nasopharyngeal COVID-19 and Influenza testing.

LEMSAs who choose to utilize EMT and AEMT expanded scope accreditation are not required to submit a Local Optional Scope of Practice application to EMSA.

To view current local jurisdiction approved Local Optional Scope of Practices, please visit the EMSA [Local Optional Scope of Practice \(LOSOP\) webpage](#).

The termination date of this expanded scope is **March 31, 2022**.

If you have additional questions, please send email to ScopeofPractice@emsa.ca.gov.