



EMS Information Bulletin 2020-31

DATE: December 22, 2020

SUBJECT: EMS Participation in Mass Vaccination

TO: PA EMS Providers
PA EMS Agencies
PA EMS Agency Medical Directors
PA Regional EMS Councils

FROM: Dylan Ferguson, Director
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
PA Department of Health
(717) 787-8740

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dylan J. Ferguson'.

§8113 (g) of the State EMS Act, authorizes the Department to publish in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* a listing of skills within the scope of practice of each type of EMS provider. The most current scope of practice identifies immunizations as authorized by the Department as being within the scope of practice for all EMS providers above the level of an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)

Following the completion of Department required training, and authorization from their EMS Agency Medical Director, EMS providers above the level of an AEMT are hereby authorized, as part of mass vaccination plans and procedures to administer any vaccine designated for COVID-19 that has received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration,

The training requirement can be fulfilled by completing the TRAIN-PA online continuing education course titled *PA-EMS COVID-2019 Vaccination Training for Pennsylvania EMS*.

Please direct any questions to your Regional EMS Council.

STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT PROVIDERS FOR VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Providers certificated at the level of paramedic and higher can be a valuable supplement to the public health workforce when mass vaccinations are required to address a pandemic or other biological threat. To qualify for certification, ALS providers are trained in intramuscular administration of medications and, therefore, may be valuable personnel to assist with mass vaccination.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) has asked paramedics to assist with mass vaccination for the 2019 Novel Corona Virus COVID-19. ALS providers who are willing to participate in vaccination efforts may be deployed by the Department to administer vaccine in Department-run or Department-assisted public mass vaccination clinics, or to administer vaccine in other mass vaccination clinics.

Department of Health:

1. The Department will offer the Bureau of EMS Vaccine Administration Course. This course provides basic training on vaccines (including the importance of temperature controls for storage and handling of vaccines and FDA storage and refrigeration standards for vaccine), contraindications to the vaccine, the appropriate dosage of vaccine to be administered, safe and appropriate administration of vaccines, record keeping of vaccine administration, and response to and reporting of adverse events. ALS Providers must complete this course to participate in the vaccination effort.
2. The Department will review documentation provided by regional EMS councils demonstrating that ALS Providers have completed the Bureau of EMS Vaccine Administration Course.
3. The Department will require that a physician verify the paramedic's competence to give intramuscular injections at the specified anatomic site. The Department will provide a Skill Verification form which must be completed and signed by a reviewing physician.
4. The Department's community health nurse or an appropriate licensed health professional will be provided an approved list of paramedics authorized to administer the vaccine by the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, and that person will verify the paramedic's credentials before the paramedic will be permitted to administer vaccine.

ALS Service Medical Directors:

1. To complete a skill verification form through which the physician has verified the paramedic's competence to give intramuscular injections at the specified anatomic site(s) and to individuals over the age of one year. This is to be done through the Skill Verification form provided by the Department.
2. Provide the Skill Verification form to the appropriate regional EMS council.

Regional EMS Councils

1. Provide to the Department, names and certification numbers for all ALS Providers who wish to participate in mass vaccination clinics.
2. Provide copies of the Skill Verification forms completed by physicians to the Department and to the ALS Providers.
3. Provide to the Department, documentation demonstrating that ALS Providers have completed the Bureau of EMS Vaccine Administration Course.

ALS Providers administering vaccine as part of a mass vaccination clinic must:

1. Have photo identification and Pennsylvania ALS Providers certification card to present at the mass vaccination clinic for verification.
2. Pre-screen each candidate for vaccination or ensure that a nurse or other licensed medical professional on site pre-screens the candidate, to ensure that the person does not identify a criterion that disqualifies the person for vaccine administration. Pre-screening, at a minimum, includes obtaining a history of vaccinations, allergies, and any adverse reactions from previous vaccinations, and completion in writing of a standardized questionnaire provided by or approved by the Department.
3. Provide to each person to be vaccinated or the person's authorized representative vaccination information and other materials provided by the Department for distribution.
4. Report to the physician or other licensed health professional performing the lead medical function at the mass vaccination site, any observed adverse reaction to the vaccine, and provide to the person who is vaccinated or that person's authorized representative information regarding possible adverse reactions and measures to take if there is an adverse reaction, including reporting the adverse reaction to the program.
5. Complete a post-action report as requested by the Department.

Please Note: All sections within this form must be completed before order will be processed.

SECTION 1: PROVIDER INFORMATION

Name:		Certification Number:	Certification Number Level	
Address		City	State	Zip
Email Address:			Telephone Number:	

SECTION 2: EMS AGENCY INFORMATION

EMS Agency Name:		Telephone Number:		
Address		City	State	Zip

SECTION 3: SKILL VERIFICATION

Competency	Clinical Skill, Technique, Procedure, or Knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical Protocols	Completed EMS Vaccine Administration course. Course Number 1000034676	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Understands need to report occupational injuries	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Identifies the 6 "Rights" of Medication Administration (Medication, Route, Time, Client, Dosage, and Documentation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vaccine Preparation	Checks vial contents, expiration date, and lot number	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Prepare immunization according to the Public Health Policies, Procedures and the manufacturer's direction/insert	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Maintains aseptic technique throughout	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Selects correct needle size: 1 -1 1/2" for IM	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Shakes vial and/or reconstitutes with supplied diluents. Rechecks vial for contents and draws up appropriate dose of vaccine immediately prior to administration	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Labels each syringe or places in labeled tray to maintain identification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vaccine Administration	Rechecks orders and verifies with prepared syringes	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Washes hands	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Demonstrates knowledge of appropriate route of each vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Identifies client	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Positions client; locates anatomic landmarks specific for IM (Paramedics can only give deltoid injections)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cleanses injection site with isopropyl alcohol and allow to dry	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inserts needle quickly at the appropriate angle	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Injects vaccine using steady pressure; withdraws needle at angle of insertion	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Properly disposes of needle and syringe in sharps container	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides client/parent/guardian with post administration care	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vaccine Handling/Storage	Demonstrates an understanding of proper storage and transporting of vaccines	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Explains importance of cold chain management, and the need to ensure vaccines remain at appropriate temperature.	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 4: APPROVALS

EMS Agency Medical Director (Printed Name)	Signature	Date
Regional EMS Council	Signature	Date