



County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
6255 MISSION GORGE ROAD, MAIL STOP S-555
SAN DIEGO, CA 92120-3599
(619) 285-6429 • FAX (619) 285-6531

NICK YPHANTIDES, M.D., M.P.H.
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

January 14, 2021

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMS INTRAMUSCULAR VACCINATION LOCAL OPTIONAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The emergency declaration provides the Director of the Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) the authority to approve the expansion of Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP) for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), Advanced EMTs (AEMTs), and paramedics to aid in the prevention of the spread of the virus.

County of San Diego EMS has received LOSOP approval for San Diego-credentialed paramedics, AEMTs, and EMTs to provide intramuscular COVID-19 vaccine injection. EMTs and AEMTs received authorization to provide immunization on January 12, 2021. As a reminder, paramedics received authorization to deliver immunizations on May 1, 2020 and have been safely and effectively providing both influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations throughout San Diego County.

County of San Diego EMS agencies may elect to implement one or more levels of these LOSOP options in coordination with County of San Diego Public Health Services (CoSD PHS). EMS agencies must comply with all EMSA LOSOP/personnel requirements, including the LEMSA QA/QI Plan. All providers must be trained on vaccination administration per the [EMSA-provided curriculum](#) and CoSD PHS training materials. All EMS personnel must comply with CoSD PHS training, documentation, and administration policies and procedures. Agencies shall keep records of their vaccination implementation and provide a report to the LEMSA, upon request. These temporary LOSOPs will be terminated the date the emergency declaration ends.

Respectfully,

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director
Emergency Medical Services
County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

Attachments

cc: Nick Yphantides, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer
Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator
San Diego County EMS Agencies

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

10901 GOLD CENTER DR., SUITE 400
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 324-2875



May 1, 2020

Kristi Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS
EMS Medical Director
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Agency
6255 Mission Gorge Road
San Diego, CA 92120

Dear Dr. Koenig:

On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in response to the prevention of the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. The emergency declaration provides the Director of the Emergency Medical Services Agency the authority to approve the expansion of local optional scope of practice for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Advanced EMTs (AEMT), and paramedics in order to aid in the prevention of the spread and treatment of the virus.

This letter is to inform you that the San Diego County EMS Agency's request to add the following skills to EMT and paramedic local optional scope of practice while assigned to static sites have been approved:

- EMT assisted administration of over the counter or prescribed oral medications
- EMT and paramedic administration of nasal viral swab test collection
- Paramedic facilitated phlebotomy
- Paramedic administration of ocular medications
- Paramedic administration of transdermal medications
- Paramedic administration of inhaled medications
- Paramedic administration of oral medications
- Paramedic administration of intramuscular medications
- Paramedic administration of subcutaneous injection medications
- Paramedic administration of intravenous medications
- Paramedic dispensing of prescribed medications from bubble packs or multidose containers
- Paramedic intermuscular immunization
- Paramedic administration of subcutaneous skin testing

Your approval for the use of these practices shall commence on May 1, 2020 and conclude the date the emergency declaration is terminated.

If you have any questions, please contact Austin Trujillo of my staff by phone at (916) 431-3689 or by email at Austin.Trujillo@emsa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


Dave Duncan, MD
Director

cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator, San Diego County EMS Agency

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

10901 GOLD CENTER DR., SUITE 400
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 324-2875



January 12, 2021

Kristi Koenig, MD, FACEP
EMS Medical Director
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Agency
6255 Mission Gorge Rd.
San Diego, CA 92120

Dear Dr. Koenig:

On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in response to the prevention of the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. The emergency declaration provides the Director of the Emergency Medical Services Agency the authority to approve the expansion of local optional scope of practice for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Advanced EMTs (AEMT), and paramedics to aid in the prevention of the spread of the virus.

This letter is to inform you that the San Diego County EMS Agency's request to add the administration of intramuscular COVID-19 vaccinations to your EMT, AEMT, and paramedic local optional scope of practice has been approved. This authorization allows emergency medical service providers to administer these vaccines in accordance with your agency's policies and procedures. Your approval for the use of this practice shall conclude the date the emergency declaration is terminated.

This approval is applicable to non-accredited paramedics working in coordination with your agency. LEMSAs who enroll non-accredited paramedics in their jurisdiction's COVID-19 vaccination program shall ensure these paramedics are properly oriented to relevant agency COVID-19 vaccination administration policies and procedures.

If you have any questions, please contact Austin Trujillo of my staff by phone at (916) 431-3727 or by email at Austin.Trujillo@emsa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Duncan".

for

Dave Duncan, MD
Director

cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator, San Diego County EMS Agency