

October 16, 2020

Dear EMS Colleagues,

As you know, the New Mexico EMS Scope of Practice allows licensed EMT – Basics, EMT-Intermediates, and Paramedics to administer immunizations and biologicals to both the public and to other EMS caregivers. Specifically, the language in the scope, for Basic, ILS and Paramedic is as follows:

Immunizations and biologicals: administration of immunizations, vaccines, biologicals, and TB skin testing is authorized under the following circumstances:

- (a) to the general public as part of a department of health initiative or emergency response, utilizing department of health protocols; the administration of immunizations is to be under the supervision of a physician, nurse, or other authorized health provider;
- (b) administer vaccines to EMS and public safety personnel;
- (c) TB skin tests may be applied and interpreted if the licensed provider has successfully completed required department of health training;
- (d) in the event of a disaster or emergency, the state EMS medical director or chief medical officer of the department

The 2020 – 2021 influenza vaccine is available, and our colleagues in the Public Health Division are working on plans for flu vaccine programs all over the state. Additionally, plans are being made to have similar events for the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. EMS will be an integral part of these events, both in providing an EMS unit to be on site should a medical issue arise, and having our licensed EMS caregivers as part of the team administering the vaccine.

The local Public Health Offices will be reaching out to EMS agencies to seek medical stand-by resources, as well as personnel who would be interested in helping with the vaccine efforts. There will also be communication with and to the DOH EMS Bureau and the State EOC to maintain awareness of EMS resource utilization.

Please work with your local Public Health colleagues in making these efforts a success. The next several months are critical in assuring our state's capability to care for New Mexico residents during a very challenging time. You are an important part in assuring that will happen, just as you have been invaluable in the care of our residents during the unprecedented events of the spring and summer of 2020.

Do not hesitate to email if you have any questions. Thank you for all that you do, and as always, be safe.

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