

Immunization Policy

Effective Date: 12/2020

Review Date:

Approvals: EMSSC, EMSMD

Background to Policy:

Following the 2009 H1N1 Flu outbreak and the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois Department of Public Health has allowed EMT-P, EMT-I and AEMT to administer vaccines.

Policy Statement:

The purpose of this policy is to create a clear understanding for the requirements for providers to administer vaccinations, the process of administration and quality assurance associated with the vaccination program.

Policy:

1. Vaccines
 - a. EMS providers will be able to administer the following vaccines:
 - i. Influenza Vaccine
 - ii. COVID-19 Vaccine
 - iii. Or any other vaccines deemed emergent and are required to administer for mass vaccination. This will be determined in conjunction with the local health department (LHD) and the Illinois Department of Public Health
 - b. Vaccinations will only be administered by EMT-P, PHRN, EMT-I, or AEMT who have been authorized by the EMS office.
2. Education
 - a. To administer vaccines, each EMS provider must document training efficient enough to cover the following competencies:
 - i. Proper administration of vaccine
 - ii. Documentation of vaccine administration
 - iii. Contraindications and potential side effects of the vaccine
 - iv. Storage and disposal of vaccine materials
 - v. Any additional information pertinent to the proper administration of the vaccine per manufacture requirements
 - b. Each EMS agency will be responsible for documenting the training for each provider. Those training records must be turned into the EMS office prior to authorization to administer vaccinations.
 - c. If mass vaccination continues for a prolonged period, more than 6 months, continuing education must be implemented to ensure providers are maintaining initial competencies. Agencies must record proper continuing education for all authorized EMS providers.
3. Communications
 - a. Upon authorization by local health department, approved EMS providers will work with LHD to coordinate the administration of vaccinations in conjunction with their mass vaccination plans.

- b. EMS providers will be notified of location where they will be administering the vaccinations. This will be coordinated with LHD.
 - c. If authorized by the EMS System Medical Director or the LHD, EMS agencies may provider vaccine administration to their own agencies if deemed necessary.
 - d. If authorized by the EMS System Medical Director, agencies may provide vaccination at a community clinic administered through their own agency.
- 4. Medication Control
 - a. If agencies are storing vaccine materials, all medications must be stored in a manner that meets all requirements of the manufacture and/or LHD.
 - b. All medications must be disposed in proper bio-waste containers.
 - c. Agencies will be required to ensure proper quality control, security, and equipment necessary to properly maintain all medications
- 5. Documentation
 - a. Providers must document and record administrations following LHD requirements.
 - i. Records must be maintained in accordance with LHD and IDPH requirements
 - b. Providers must report any negative or adverse reactions to proper reporting agencies in an appropriate timeframe.
- 6. Administration
 - a. Administration of vaccines will be done in a manner that follows manufactures recommendations and requirements
 - b. All proper measures body substance isolation precautions must be taken.
 - c. Vaccination sites (anatomical locations) must be properly cleaned prior to administration.
 - d. All biohazard material must be disposed in proper receptacles.
- 7. Quality Assurance
 - a. EMS agencies will be required to turn in proper training associated with the vaccine prior to authorization to administer vaccines
 - b. EMS agencies will record what providers are used to assist with mass vaccinations. Agencies will record the following for each provider:
 - i. Name of EMS provider and level of care
 - ii. Date of vaccine administration
 - iii. Hours in which vaccinations were administer
 - iv. Location of administration
 - c. Copies of the record should be turned in on a weekly basis to the EMS office.
- 8. Misc.
 - a. EMS agencies may voluntarily partake in this program.
 - b. IDPH has prohibited EMS providers from administering vaccines to people under 6 years of age.
 - c. If deemed necessary by the EMSMD, agencies will be allowed to administer vaccines within routine duties. If this is done, a separate protocol will be issued for further guidance.
 - d. This policy is subject to change based the Illinois Department of Public Health guidance.