DATE: January 10, 2021
TO: Local EMS Agency Administrators and Medical Directors
FROM: Dave Duncan MD
       Director, EMS Authority
Subject: Expanding Scope for all EMS providers to Administer COVID-19 Vaccinations through Local Optional Scope.

California state leadership requests LEMSA assistance administering COVID-19 vaccinations to maximally expand this capability. Given the increased number of COVID-19 cases and the continued COVID-19 hospital surge, each day of delay in providing vaccines translates into future lives lost and additional economic hardship. There is now an "all hands on deck" request to help administer the COVID-19 vaccine in California, particularly given the increased demand with now overlapping first and second dose requirements.

Pursuant to the Executive Order issued by Governor Newsom on March 12th 2020:

4. Notwithstanding Health and Safety Code section 1797.172(b), during the course of this emergency, the Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority shall have the authority to implement additions to local optional scopes of practice without first consulting with a committee of local EMS medical directors named by the EMS Medical Directors Association of California.

EMSA is requesting that LEMSAs which have not yet obtained Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP) for EMTs to vaccinate the public, do apply and participate in the LOSOP to allow EMTs, Advanced EMTs and EMT-Ps (including non-accredited paramedics) to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to California’s public.

EMSA is requesting that LEMSA Administrators work with their public health departments and EMS stakeholders to train and enlist Paramedics and EMTs as vaccinators. LEMSAs and Local Health Departments may utilize the tools included in the attached package to help streamline the process to safely develop a path for all EMS providers to become vaccinators. If LEMSAs have additional or alternate training plans or packages that have been approved or would be more appropriate for your region, please submit those in the LOSOP application for approval.

To help ensure that the rollout of this emergency measure does not create a financial burden, California has made funding available to participating LEMSAs. LEMSAs who submit their LOSOP applications to EMSA by January 14th and establish their training program, making a significant portion of EMTs, AEMTs, and EMTPs available for vaccination teams by Wed January 20th, will be reimbursed according to the following schedule:

- LEMSAs serving a population of less than 300,000: $10,000 (#10)
- LEMSAs serving a population of between 300,000 and 1,000,000: $20,000 (#10)
- LEMSAs service a population greater than 1,000,000: $30,000 (#11)
NOTE: LEMSAs already participating in a LOSOP for EMT vaccination of the public qualify for the reimbursement as well.

EMSA respectfully requests that LEMSA Administrators submit the attached Local Optional Scope Request Form (#EMSA-0391) with your LEMSA’s information added and a note that you will be employing a California EMS Authority Approved COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program for EMTs, Advanced EMTs, Paramedics.

By end of day 1/11/2021, EMSA will post a link to this standardized COVID-19 Vaccine Administration LOSOP request form and the EMSA approved training program materials on the EMSA web link: COVID-19 Info for Medical Response which can be found on EMSA’s landing page. EMSA will approve these LOSOP requests within 24 hours.

Please also note, the California Department of Public Health has provided additional COVID-19 Vaccine training materials:
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/COVID-19VaccineTraining.aspx#

General immunization training:
https://eziz.org/eziz-training/

Oregon Health and Science University’s comprehensive COVID-19 vaccination program video presentation at:
https://echo360.org/media/34a495b8-fa97-42ad-929b-73ad29811dcd/public

Finally, EMSA suggests LEMSA Administrators and Medical Directors consider adopting the “hands on” training opportunity suggested by Travis Kusman: During the provider’s visit, where they are being administered their second dose of the vaccine, San Mateo EMS’s prehospital personnel will, under observation by their vaccination instructor, administer the vaccination to one another.