County of El Dorado

Emergency Medical Services Agency

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Date: April 1, 2020
To: El Dorado County EMS Providers
From: Michelle Patterson, EMS Agency Administrator
David Brazzel, MD, EMS Medical Director
Subject: COVID-19: EMS LICENSURE, CERTIFICATION, AND TRAINING

On March 30, 2020, Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies received guidance from the California Emergency Medical Services Authority in response to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-39-20 regarding EMT recertification and Paramedic reaccreditation concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The El Dorado County EMS Agency has adopted the attached policy developed by the California Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding EMS Licensure, Certification and Training.

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

DATE: March 30, 2020

TO: EMS Community

FROM: Dave Duncan MD
Director

SUBJECT: POLICY TO IMPLEMENT THE EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR REGARDING EMS LICENSURE, CERTIFICATION, AND TRAINING

On the 30th day of March 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-39-20, which states in part:

> *"6. To ensure the continued operation of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system without unduly endangering the people of California during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority may as necessary and only for the duration of the declared emergency, suspend any licensing, certification, or training requirements for EMS personnel as contained in the EMS Act Chapters 2, 3, and 4, and accompanying regulations, including the authority to permit EMS personnel to provide services in any setting as authorized by the Director for the performance of the current scope of practice. The Authority shall provide guidance to local emergency medical services authorities directing the appropriate qualifications and scope of practice for each classification operating under a waiver based on sound clinical guidelines and the individual's training, education, and work experience. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Authority's website."*

In order to implement the Governor's order waiving statutory and regulatory requirements for EMS Personnel to ensure the continued operation of emergency medical services, the EMS Authority is directing the California EMS System consisting of local EMS agencies, certifying entities, EMS providers and employers, paramedics, AEMTS and EMTs to implement the following actions:

1. All EMS personnel (EMT, AEMT and paramedic) with licenses or certifications (or local accreditation) expiring in March, April, May, or June of 2020 shall have their license or certification expiration dates extended until July 31, 2020.

2. EMTs, AEMTs, and paramedics shall be allowed to perform their current scope of practice in hospitals, medical facilities, alternate care sites, shelter care sites,

in-home settings, or any additional setting approved by the director of the Authority for purposes of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Any EMT, AEMT or paramedic whose license or certification has expired in the six (6) month period prior to March 30, 2020, will be allowed to function under their previous scope of practice for the duration of the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency, provided that they do not have a history of license or certification discipline.

4. The requirement for a completed skills competency verification by EMTs for renewal or reinstatement is waived for the duration of the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency.

5. For the duration of the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency, training programs shall:

    a. Allow for the use of high-fidelity simulation in place of the 10 clinical contacts for the purposes of training and graduating EMT students.
    b. Allow for the use of high-fidelity simulation in place of 20 of a paramedic's required 40 ALS contacts during the field internship phase of training.
    c. Suspend EMT skills exams for certification.
    d. Inform paramedic students in writing of the need to extend clinical and/or field internship placement timelines with an estimated time of doing so.

6. The National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) provisional registrations or a successful completion of the NREMT written (knowledge) Assessment exam shall be accepted for purposes of certification, licensure or reinstatement. EMS personnel with a provisional NREMT registration shall be required to receive a full NREMT registration within 6 months of the NREMT allowing testing. EMS personnel who have successfully completed the NREMT written Assessment exam shall be required to complete the NREMT psychomotor exam within 6 months of the NREMT allowing testing.