



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services
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EMERGENCY WAIVER

TO: All Licensed Ambulance Services
FROM: W. Scott Cluett, III Director, Office of EMS
RE: COVID-19 Related Waivers
DATE: March 18, 2020

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to work with state, federal and local partners on the outbreak of novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, and we continue to appreciate the essential role you have in responding to this evolving situation.

Pursuant to an Order issued by the Commissioner of Public Health, certain provisions of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Regulations, 105 CMR 170.000, have been suspended through this waiver.

The purpose of this waiver is to alleviate potential EMS personnel staffing shortages due to COVID-19, and to allow for use of first responders, as defined in M.G.L. c. 111, §201, and 105 CMR 171.000 (except for lifeguards), to drive ambulances and constitute part of the minimum required staffing of the ambulance.

Term of the Suspension:

This order shall be effective:

From: Immediate
To: Until Further Notice from the Department

Effective section: 105 CMR 170.305 Staffing

(B) **BLS Staffing:** When a Class I, II or V ambulance transports a patient receiving care at the BLS level, the ambulance must be staffed with at least one EMT, who is at a minimum certified at the EMT-Basic level, as set forth in 105 CMR 170.810 **and one first responder, as defined in 105 CMR 171.000 (excluding lifeguards), who shall drive the ambulance.** When an EFR service licensed at the BLS level responds to a call, it shall be staffed with a minimum of one EMT certified at a minimum at the EMT-Basic level.

(C) **ALS Staffing.**

(1) When a Class I, II or V ambulance transports a patient receiving care at the Advanced level of ALS, the ambulance must be staffed with a minimum of at least one EMT, who is at a minimum certified at the EMT-Advanced or higher level, **and one first responder, as defined in 105 CMR 171.000 (excluding lifeguards), who shall drive the ambulance.**

(2) When a Class I, II or V ambulance transports a patient receiving care at the Paramedic level of ALS, the ambulance must be staffed with a minimum of at least one EMT, who is at a minimum certified at the

Paramedic level, **and one first responder, as defined in 105 CMR 171.000 (excluding lifeguards), who shall drive the ambulance.**

Contact information

For you questions on this waiver, you may contact Brendan Murphy at Brendan.P.Murphy@state.ma.us.