

Vermont EMS Scope of Practice Update – Immunization (Vaccination)

TO: Vermont Emergency Medical Services
CC: Dan Batsie, Director of EMS, Vermont Department of Health
FROM: Daniel Wolfson, MD, State EMS Medical Director
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Subject: Vermont EMS Scope of Practice Update – Immunization (Vaccination)

SUMMARY – Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is an important public health resource in the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) vaccination plan. EMS providers represent a subset of trained health care professionals that with a small amount of additional training can increase the pool of available vaccinators substantially. By leveraging existing EMS protocols and creating strategic partnerships, the Department intends once again to enlist EMS as a key element of this pandemic response.

Effective immediately, we have expanded the scope of practice of currently licensed VT Paramedics and AEMTs to include administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines per the VDH Vaccination Guidelines. Prior to administering vaccines, each EMS provider must complete the VTEMS vaccination training and be credentialed by the entity approved to operate a vaccine point of distribution.

Please see the attached new protocol, entitled, "**Immunization**".

The required VT EMS training has been posted on CentreLearn. The training is entitled **VTEMS Vaccine Administration Training for AEMTs and Paramedics** (Course Code **VTVAXX**) and is located in any of the following CentreLearn catalogs:

- 2020 Protocol Education Catalog
- AEMT Protocol Education
- Paramedic Protocol Education
- Vermont Dept. of Health Courses

Paramedics or AEMTs may integrate into the State vaccination plan in one of the following three ways:

1. VDH contracts with EMS agencies to provide staffing in designated State-run points of vaccine distribution (PODS).
2. EMS practitioners wishing to volunteer to administer vaccinations can join the Vermont Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC works with a wide variety of approved entities and could use EMS practitioners to enhance its capacity to support vaccination capabilities.
3. EMS agencies and practitioners can partner with other entities previously approved by VDH to offer vaccine points of distribution. These entities, such as hospitals and primary care offices, could utilize EMS practitioners to staff their vaccine administration efforts. In these cases, EMS practitioners would administer vaccines on behalf of and under the supervision of the State approved entity. The authorized entity would be responsible for

appropriate maintenance of all federal, state, and local vaccine regulations and requirements.

Due to significant logistical challenges and a limited supply of in-state vaccines, EMS agencies are not authorized to acquire or administer vaccines outside of the guidelines detailed above.

If there are questions, please feel free to contact the EMS office.