



# Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: Administration of Vaccinations

Division: 17

Article: 5.16

Developed: December 2020

Pages: 2

## PURPOSE

Pre-hospital providers may be called upon to provide certain immunizations as necessary to assist state and/or local health officials in the event of a public health crisis, or under the written order of a physician.

In anticipation of the release of an approved vaccine for COVID-19, and limited healthcare workforce in many areas, the Wyoming Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) provided an interpretation of existing rule to assist in planning for providing vaccinations to the public.

The use of licensed EMS personnel in mass vaccination plans should augment, not replace other public health or health care providers.

## SECTION I – AUTHORITY- STANDING ORDER

*Rules and Regulations for Emergency Medical Services, Ch. 1, Section 2(a)*

### **Rule Language:**

1. The National Scope of Practice Model (Model) is incorporated by reference in Chapter 17, Section 1. Authorized Acts or Scope of Practice, Generally.
2. The *Model* contemplates the current situation with regard to the pandemic by the inclusion of this language (page 17):

*"It is virtually impossible to create a scope of practice that takes into account every unique situation, extraordinary circumstance, and possible practice situation. This is further complicated by the fact that EMS personnel are an essential component of disaster preparedness and response. In many cases, EMS personnel are the only medically trained individuals at the scene of a disaster when other health care resources may be overwhelmed. This document cannot account for every situation, but rather is designed to establish a system that works for entry-level personnel under normal circumstances. It is assumed that the scope*

*of practice of EMS personnel may be modified or changed in times of disaster or crisis with proper education, medical oversight, and quality assurance to reasonably protect patient safety.* "[Emphasis added.]

3. For the respective levels of licensure, the current rules authorize Paramedics, Intermediate EMTs, and Advanced EMTs, and EMTs to perform intramuscular and subcutaneous injections using a needle and syringe.
4. The OEMS considers the provision of a vaccine by intramuscular and subcutaneous injection during a pandemic to be within the scope of practice for these levels.
5. The OEMS considers a licensee who acts in accordance with the scope of this guidance document to be acting in good faith as contemplated by Wyoming Statute 35-4-114(a)

## **SECTION II – IMPLEMENTATION CRITERIA**

Under this standing order, providers can administer vaccine while working in conjunction with the Teton County Health Department or St. John's Health with appropriate training.

## **SECTION III – TRAINING**

Paramedics, EMT-Is, and AEMTs, and EMTs administering COVID-19 vaccinations must receive training on the administration of the vaccine to include:

1. Indications, dosage, route, and any special considerations in drug treatment with regards to pregnant, pediatric, and geriatric patients.
2. Recognition and treatment of adverse responses.
3. Equipment needed, techniques used, complications, and general principles for the preparation and administration.
4. Use of universal precautions and body substance isolation (BSI) procedures during medication administration.
5. Required monitoring and documentation.