



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
*Olympia, Washington 98504*

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A  
POLICY STATEMENT**

**Title of Policy Statement:** EMS Providers and Emergency Vaccinations. Policy Number:  
EMS20-01

**Issuing Entity:** Office of Community Health Systems, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and  
Trauma Care System

**Subject Matter:** Use of EMS Personnel to Provide Emergency Vaccinations

**Effective Date:** 10/01/2020

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

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**Department of Health**  
**Office of Community Health Systems**  
**Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma Care System**

# **Policy Statement**

Revised – 10/18/11

<b>Title:</b>	EMS Providers and Emergency Vaccinations	<b>Number:</b> EMS20-01
<b>References:</b>	Chapters 18.71 RCW; 18.73 RCW; and 38.52 RCW; RCW 35.21.930 Chapter 246-976 WAC	
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<b>Approved By:</b>	Nate Weed, Director Office of Community Health Systems	

It is within the scope of practice for an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), or Paramedic to administer a vaccination during a public health emergency as outlined in this policy.

WAC 246-976-182 limits emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to providing care in the prehospital emergency setting.

EMS personnel provide emergency medical care under the direction of their county EMS medical program director (MPD). The role of the county EMS MPD is established in chapter 246-976 WAC. Each county has a physician appointed, certified, and contracted by the Washington State Department of Health. MPDs provide training and medical direction through written and verbal patient treatment protocols. MPDs may delegate authority to other physicians to help with training and supervision. The county MPDs may have the county health officer supervise EMS during an emergency.

The National Scope of Practice Model (2019) recognizes the use of certified AEMT and Paramedic level providers for administering vaccinations in public health initiatives.

Washington State scope of practice allows EMTs to perform an intramuscular injection with MPD-approved specialized training.

In compliance with Washington State's EMS scope of practice, it is the Department of Health's policy that an EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic may administer a vaccination under all of the following conditions:

1. There is a state or local declaration of an emergency under the provisions of [chapter 38.52 RCW](#). Since vaccinations are considered primary care and generally not an emergency condition, the law does not allow administration of vaccines by certified EMS providers unless deemed an emergency.

2. The EMS personnel have completed any MPD-approved specialized training and have received approval from the MPD to perform the skill.
3. The EMS personnel are acting under the medical oversight and direction of the county MPD or an MPD delegate physician such as the local health officer and a department-approved MPD protocol is in place.
4. The EMS personnel are affiliated with a licensed EMS service, and the EMS service is coordinating this activity with appropriate organizations authorized to conduct community surveillance of infectious disease.
5. The vaccines are managed in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal requirements.
6. For licensed EMS Services who establish an in house vaccine program, the program meets any applicable local, state, and federal requirements to do so and have consulted with the Washington State Department of Health Office of Immunization and Child Profile at [COVID.vaccine@doh.wa.gov](mailto:COVID.vaccine@doh.wa.gov) for more information.