EMS Policy Memorandum No. 2021-02

DATE: January 26, 2021

TO: All Prehospital Personnel

FROM: Dr. Katherine Shafer, EMS Medical Director

SUBJ.: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration by Paramedics

The purpose of this memorandum is to approve San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SJCEMSA) accredited paramedics to participate in COVID-19 vaccination programs approved by San Joaquin County Public Health Services and enrolled in the California Covid-19 Vaccination Program (CalVax).

On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in response to the prevention of the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. The emergency declaration provides the Director of the Emergency Medical Services Agency the authority to approve the expansion of local optional scope of practice for EMTs, Advanced EMTs, and paramedics to aid in the prevention of the spread of the virus.

On April 23, 2020, SJCEMSA requested and received approval from the EMS Authority to expand the local optional scope of practice for SJCEMSA accredited paramedics to operate at static sites including the administration of intramuscular injections. On January 8, 2021, SJCEMSA requested and received approval for paramedics to administer influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations. This memorandum shall conclude on the date the public health emergency declaration is terminated or until rescinded or modified.

SJCEMSA recommends that paramedics participating in COVID-19 vaccination programs review and utilize for training purposes the EMSA COVID-19 EMT AEMT and Paramedic Training Packet provided at https://emsa.ca.gov/.

If you have any questions regarding this policy memorandum, contact Jeff Costa, RN, EMS Critical Care Coordinator at (209) 468-6818.