EMS Policy Memorandum No. 2020-09

DATE: March 20, 2020

TO: All Prehospital Care Providers

FROM: Katherine Shafer, M.D., EMS Medical Director

SUBJ.: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Paramedic Accreditation

The San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency (SJCEMSA) has received inquiries from individuals regarding paramedic accreditation renewals. In keeping with Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-27-20 to maintain an adequate healthcare workforce, I am issuing this directive. This memorandum is effective through May 31, 2020, unless superseded or rescinded earlier.

Due to the need for paramedics and the entire healthcare workforce to be available to respond to the current public health emergency, I am modifying the requirements of EMS Policy No. 2540, Paramedic Accreditation and its requirement to “complete an EMS Agency policy skills review (PSR) course within (6) months of expiration.”

Paramedics who apply to renew accreditation during the current public health emergency shall be allowed to complete a PSR course through August 31, 2020. SJCEMSA will issue a temporary accreditation card valid through August 31, 2020, to applicants that have not completed the PSR course. Applicants are still required to submit a SJCEMSA Paramedic Accreditation application before their current expiration date.

SJCEMSA has cancelled PSR courses previously scheduled for March 31, 2020, April 23, 2020, and May 21, 2020. SJCEMSA will add PSR courses to meet any increase in demand during the summer.

New paramedic applicants are required to complete the Paramedic Accreditation Orientation (PAO) course. Courses will take place as scheduled and will be limited to no more than 6 participants per class meeting all U.S. Centers for Disease for Control and Prevention (CDC) social distancing and recommendations.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, you may direct questions to Marissa Matta, EMS Specialist mamatta@sjgov.org or (209) 468-6818.