

 County of San Diego EMS A Division of San Diego County Fire	MEDICAL CONTROL		S-480
	VIRAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND VACCINATION ADMINISTRATION		
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I. PURPOSE

- A.** To authorize Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT (AEMT), and paramedic viral swab specimen collection.
- B.** To authorize EMT, AEMT, and paramedic administration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations as authorized by the California EMS Authority.

II. AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797 and 1798; and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100064, 100106, and 100146.

III. DEFINITION(S)

Authorized vaccinations: COVID-19 and influenza. Additional vaccinations for diseases of public health concern may be included, as authorized by the California EMS Authority.

Authorized viral specimen samples: Samples may be collected for influenza, COVID-19, and other infectious diseases of public health concern.

Viral swab specimen: A test sample from the upper respiratory mucosa used to identify one or more viral infections.

IV. POLICY

A. Authorization

1. Paramedics are authorized by the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director to administer vaccinations in support of County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Public Health Services (PHS).
2. EMTs and AEMTs may administer intramuscular vaccinations when requested by HHSA PHS and authorized by the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director to mitigate health system strain.

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3. EMTs, AEMTs and Paramedics may collect viral swab specimen samples in support of County of San Diego HHSA PHS.

B. Training Requirements

1. EMTs, AEMTs, and Paramedics shall complete relevant training as defined by HHSAPHS, or other appropriate sources, including:
 - a. viral sample preparation, collection, handling, and documentation
 - b. vaccine handling, administration technique, and documentation
2. EMTs, AEMTs, and Paramedics shall receive skill competency evaluation.

C. Viral Swab Specimen Collection Requirements and Standards

1. A registered nurse or higher-level healthcare professional shall provide training, coordination, and administrative support.
2. County of San Diego HHSA PHS shall oversee EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic viral swab collection. Participating agencies and EMS personnel shall meet the training, handling, storage, documentation, and recordkeeping standards set by HHSA PHS.
3. EMTs, AEMTs, Paramedics may collect viral samples when local health systems experience resource challenges and request additional support from EMS providers.
4. EMS personnel may collect specimens from nasopharyngeal sites or receive self-collected samples.

D. Vaccination Requirements and Standards

1. A registered nurse or higher-level healthcare professional shall provide training, coordination, and administrative support.
2. Trained EMS personnel may administer vaccinations to patients for adult and pediatric patients (in all age groups nationally approved).
3. EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic vaccine administration shall be in coordination with County of San Diego HHSA PHS. Participating agencies and EMS personnel shall meet the training, handling, storage, documentation, and recordkeeping standards set by HHSA PHS.
4. Paramedics must be affiliated with a participating paramedic agency or directly with HHSA PHS to administer authorized vaccines.
5. EMTs and AEMTs affiliated with EMS service providers, HHSA PHS, or other entities coordinated by HHSA PHS may administer authorized intramuscular vaccines.
6. EMTs and AEMTs are not permitted to mix or draw up vaccines for administration. Paramedics or higher-level healthcare professionals shall be responsible for preparing vaccines for administration.
7. EMTs and AEMTs may administer intramuscular injections prepared by authorized healthcare professionals.

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- E.** EMS agencies shall monitor and report quality assurance concerns as defined in the agency QA/QI plan and the LEMSA QA/QI plan.
- F.** Agencies shall maintain testing and vaccination records and provide data to the LEMSA and HHSA PHS.
- G.** Agencies shall provide an annual calendar year report to the LEMSA by February 15 of the following year, or upon request.