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Chief Medical Officer

January 12, 2021

To: All professionals in the EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City and Tulsa

From: Jeffrey M. Goodloe, MD, NRP, FACEP, FAEMS
Chief Medical Officer, Medical Control Board

Re: COVID-19 Vaccination Administration by Paramedics

COVID-19 continues to prove a serious health threat to the communities and citizens we are privileged to serve. The advent of vaccines that are notably successful in preventing severe illness from the SARS-CoV-2 virus is an essential advance towards controlling and eventually ending this pandemic. It is therefore essential that we in our EMS system continue to do all can to keep others and ourselves as safe as possible, including promoting the advantages and the availability of these COVID-19 vaccines.

There are now two approved COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. One is made by Pfizer/BioNTech and the other is made by Moderna. They are extremely similar in form and function, utilizing an mRNA technology that does not include any live virus and neither can cause someone to have COVID-19. In emphasis, these vaccines have proven to be safe and continue to prove to be safe.

While many Americans want to be vaccinated, the simple facts are that there are currently more citizens wanting to be vaccinated than vaccine available AND when vaccine is available, there is often still waiting based upon the number of vaccination sites (often called vaccination PODs, which stands for points of dispensing) and/or vaccinators. This is where our EMS system can further help our communities and citizens.

This memo then serves three purposes:

1. My reminder to you to take all the good information about personal protective equipment (PPE) that we have educated upon in our EMS system and to apply good infection control practices when working with patients that have suspected or already confirmed COVID-19.
2. My request of you to get the 2-dose COVID-19 vaccination if you have not already done so as soon as you can be scheduled to receive it. And yes, I have received both doses myself as I would never ask of you what I am unwilling to do.



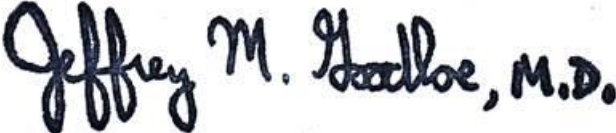
Remember that when you voluntarily receive vaccination, you protect you, you protect your families, you protect your colleagues, and you protect your patients and your communities.

While I have no plans to require you to be immunized against COVID-19 to remain credentialed as an EMS professional in our EMS system, I do pass along this strong encouragement for COVID-19 vaccination.

3. My authorization for the attached "Interim Guidance – COVID-19 Vaccine Administration" which is anticipated to become new Protocol 17M: COVID-19 Vaccine Administration once the Medical Control Board next meets (currently scheduled for March 11, 2021) to be effective immediately.

Thank you as always for your efforts in service to others and for your ongoing dedication to excellence in the practice of EMS medicine.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Goodloe, MD, NRP, FACEP, FAEMS