



EMS Information Bulletin 2020-11

DATE: April 1, 2020

SUBJECT: Level I Staffing Exceptions for Licensed EMS Vehicles

TO: PA EMS Agencies
PA Regional EMS Councils

FROM: Dylan Ferguson, Director
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
PA Department of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dylan J. Ferguson'.

With the Governor's authorization as conferred in the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on March 6, 2020, all statutory and regulatory provisions that would impose an impediment to implementing the guidance outlined in this letter are suspended. Those suspensions will remain in place while the proclamation of disaster emergency remains in effect.

Therefore, the Bureau of EMS is issuing the following Level I Staffing Exceptions to the requirements found in 35 Pa.C.S. §§ 8122, 8130, and 8133; and 28 Pa. Code §§ 1023.22, 1027.33, 1027.34 and 1027.35 as detailed below:

Level I Exceptions:

- The requirement found at 35 Pa.C.S. § 8122, for an Emergency Medical Services Vehicle Operator to be credentialed in order to operate an EMS vehicle of any type, including QRS is hereby suspended
- The minimum staffing complement for a BLS ambulance has been adjusted to one Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and a driver. The EMT must tend to the patient. This suspends the requirement found at 35 Pa.C.S. § 8133.
- The minimum staffing complement for an iALS ambulance has been adjusted to one Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), and a driver. The AEMT must tend to the patient. This suspends the requirement found at 28 Pa Code §1027.34 (b).
- The minimum staffing complement for an ALS ambulance has been adjusted to one Paramedic, and an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR). This suspends the requirement found at 35 Pa.C.S. § 8130.

Any EMS agency that transitions from traditional staffing to utilizing these exceptions are required to notify their regional EMS council and EMS agency medical director within 24 hours of the first utilization. Patient Care Reports from responses that utilize these exceptions may be subject to additional quality assurance review.

Please address any questions to your Regional EMS Council.