

STATE OF NEW YORK – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: All County EMS Coordinators, EMS Agencies

From: Lee Burns, Acting Deputy Director, Bureau of EMS

Subject: Executive Order No. 29

Date: October 30, 2009

October 28, 2009, Governor Patterson signed Executive Order No. 29 declaring a state disaster emergency for the entire State of New York in response to the H1N1 Influenza virus. This is an Article 2-B declaration that allows the governor to suspend or amend certain laws.

Part of Executive Order No. 29 modifies Part 800.15 subdivision b, allowing certified advanced EMTs at the Critical Care and Paramedic levels to administer H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccines but only under certain parameters.

1. The advanced EMTs must be operating at a POD (Points of Distribution) established and operated by the county or local health department.
2. The advanced EMTs must first receive training in techniques, indications, precautions, contraindications, infection control practices, and use of PPE that is sufficient to provide a basic level of competence as determined by the Commissioner of Health and after consultation with the Commissioner of Education.
3. This Executive Order and subsequently the ability for advanced EMTs to vaccinate will expire after 30 days, unless it is extended by the Governor.

Local health departments have already identified health care providers capable of administering vaccinations at their planned PODS. If necessary, the local health department will expand this capability by contacting and utilizing advanced EMTs. If the local plan includes the use of advanced EMTs, training will be conducted at the local level by the local health department or its designee using an approved program.

While working at a POD, advanced EMTs will be operating under the medical direction of the assigned medical director for the POD. Additionally, the use of EMS providers at PODs can not negatively impact the availability of EMS response in the local community.