

Subject: Scope of Practice/Procedure – BLS Local Optional Scope
Administration of COVID-19 Vaccine

Associated Policies:

I. Purpose

To authorize emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to adult patient populations (14 or older) when authorized by the LEMSA and the County Public Health Department or Officer, during the COVID-19 Disaster Declaration.

II. Scope

These vaccination policies and procedures shall only be authorized and valid for EMTs affiliated with an agency in NCEMS region that have been approved to utilize this local optional scope during the California COVID-19 Disaster Declaration.

III. Policy

1. EMTs approved for this local optional scope of practice and having had completed training to administer intramuscular COVID-19 may provide these vaccinations to persons as directed and in conjunction with the County Public Health Department and their respective agencies.
2. All EMTs vaccinating under this policy must be working with at least one physician, nurse, or paramedic immediately available at the vaccination site as the supervisor of dosing, procedure, and technique.

IV. Vaccine Administration Procedure:

1. Ensure that the required paperwork for each patient is completed prior to administration of the vaccine as instructed by the County Public Health Department.
2. Confirm that the consent has been signed.
3. Screen for contraindications and precautions of vaccine.
4. To prevent syncope, vaccinate patients while they are seated or lying down and consider observing them for 15 minutes after receipt of the vaccine.
5. EMTs must maintain aseptic technique when administering the influenza or COVID vaccines.
6. Clean your hands and don a new pair of gloves for each patient.
7. Choose the injection site, identify appropriate location.
8. Clean the injection site with alcohol and let it dry. IM injections are given in the deltoid muscle. The deltoid is three fingers below acromion process. Ensure appropriate needle length, at least one (1) inch in length and at least 23- or 25-gauge needle.

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9. Insert needle at a 90-degree angle and insert completely into the arm. Attempt to aspirate, if blood return, do not administer vaccine. Remove from the arm and seek assistance from the medical supervisor.
10. If no blood return, fully depress the plunger injecting all of the vaccine into the muscle. Remove the needle from the arm. If using a self-retracting syringe, depress the plunger fully to activate the retraction of the needle.
11. Do not recap or detach needle from syringe.
12. All used syringes/needles should be placed in puncture-proof containers.
13. Monitor the patient for any symptoms of allergic reaction for requisite time.

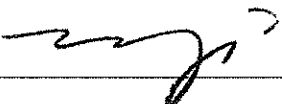
VI. Contraindications, Precautions and Considerations for Vaccine Administration
Contraindications for Vaccines

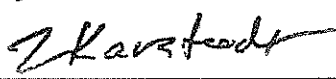
1. Do not administer vaccines to a person who has an allergic reaction or a serious systemic or anaphylactic reaction to a prior dose of that vaccine or to any of its components.
2. Contraindications for Live Attenuated Vaccines are not pertinent as these are not being administered under this local optional scope of practice.

V. Precautions for use of vaccines – refer to physician.

1. Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
2. History of Guillain-Barré syndrome within 6 weeks of a previous vaccination

IV. Be prepared for management of a medical emergency related to the administration of vaccine by having a written emergency medical protocol available, as well as equipment and medications. Follow local procedure in response to medical emergencies.

Approved:  Date: 1-22-21

Approved as to Form:  Date: 1-22-21