The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Office of Emergency Medical Services

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**TO:** MA Licensed Ambulance Services

Acute Care Hospitals Chief Executive Officers

**CC:** EMCAB Members

**FROM:** W. Scott Cluett III, Director, OEMS

**DATE:** March 20, 2020

**RE:** Unprotected Exposure Reporting to EMS Personnel and First Responders for COVID-19

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to work with state, federal and local partners on the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, and we continue to appreciate the essential role you have in responding to this evolving situation.

For purposes of 105 CMR 172.000, *Implementing of Massachusetts General Laws C. 111, § 111C, Regulating the Reporting of Infectious Diseases Dangerous to the Public Health,* DPH is interpreting Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) (including infection with the SARS- associated coronavirus), included in the regulatory definition of “Infectious Disease Dangerous to the Public Health” to include SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

As part of this interpretation, pursuant to 105 CMR 172.002, immediately upon arrival at a healthcare facility, transporting EMS personnel and/or first responder shall provide the appropriate employee of the healthcare facility with an Unprotected Exposure Form for any patient transported for whom the EMS personnel and/or first responder may have suffered an unprotected exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Hospitals will be responsible, pursuant to 105 CMR 172.003 for reporting back to the ambulance service’s or first responder agency’s Designated Infection Control Officer, for follow-up with the applicable EMS personnel and/or first responders.