



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services
67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Tel: 617-753-7300
www.mass.gov/dph

ADVISORY 20-10-01

TO: MA Licensed Ambulance Services
CC: EMCAB Members
FROM: W. Scott Cluett III, Director, OEMS
DATE: October 23, 2020
RE: COVID-19 Workplace Safety Standards for Ambulance Service Locations

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Department) continues to work with federal, state and local partners on the outbreak of novel Coronavirus 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.

In accordance with the Governor's declared state of emergency, and subsequent mandatory orders on [Safety Standards for Workplaces](#), including workplace social distancing and safety precautions, especially when working indoors, the Department reminds ambulance services that these standards apply to their locations as well, and ambulance services must ensure these standards, as summarized below, are in place, to keep both EMS personnel and the public healthy and safe from exposure to COVID-19. In addition, ambulance services must continue to follow the U.S. CDC's guidance for EMS, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>, as updated, the link to which has been posted on the Department's website since March 2020.

During the declared state of emergency, all ambulance services must comply with the following public health and safety requirements at their locations:

- All persons, including employees, customers, and vendors should remain at least six feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside workplaces.
- Establish protocols to ensure that employees can practice adequate social distancing.
- Provide signage for safe social distancing.
- Require face coverings or masks for all employees.
- Provide hand washing capabilities throughout the workplace.
- Ensure frequent hand washing by employees and adequate supplies to do so. If hand washing is not readily accessible, then provide access to alcohol-based hand rub that is at least 60% alcohol.
- Provide regular sanitization of high touch areas, such as workstations, equipment, screens, doorknobs, restrooms throughout work site.
- Provide training for employees regarding the social distancing and hygiene protocols.
- Ensure that employees who are displaying COVID-19-like symptoms do not report to

work.

- Establish a plan for employees developing COVID-19 symptoms at work, and a return-to-work plan.
- Employers should take measures to ensure employees comply with all State-issued rules concerning out of state travel for any employer-paid or -reimbursed travel.
- Establish and maintain cleaning protocols specific to an ambulance service location.
- When an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 and has been at work within 48 hours of diagnosis or symptoms, cleaning and disinfecting must be performed at the workplace.
- Disinfection of all common surfaces must take place at intervals appropriate to an ambulance service location.

Ambulance services' compliance with these standards is enforceable by the Department, under 105 CMR 170.000, and the Department of Labor Standards, pursuant to the Governor's Safety Standards for Workplaces during COVID-19.

Thank you all for the critical public health and safety service you provide, and your cooperation in operating your locations in a manner that protects the public and your EMS personnel.

For any questions, please contact Susan Lewis, NRP/IC, Deputy Director, at Susan.K.Lewis@mass.gov.