Special Protocol
(Effective through period of Commissioner’s Order)

Administration of Immunizations by Paramedics and
Advanced EMTs Pursuant to a Public Health Order of
the Commissioner: COVID-19 VACCINE

Vaccines for the novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, are
given by injection into the muscle (IM). Paramedics working in connection with a Massachusetts
Department of Public Health (MDPH)-approved mobile integrated health (MIH) or community
EMS program (CEMS), are already authorized by 105 CMR 700.003(A)(4) of the Drug Control
Program (DCP) regulations, to administer certain vaccines. All other Paramedics are currently
authorized by Commissioner’s Order issued November 3, 2020, to administer influenza vaccine.
Paramedics and Advanced EMTs are trained to administer certain medications intravenously,
intramuscularly, subcutaneously, and intranasally. Paramedics and Advanced EMTs operate in
accordance with the Department’s EMS System regulations and Statewide Treatment Protocols
of the MDPH Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), and in connection with an MDPH-
licensed ambulance service. They also obtain authorization to practice from their ambulance
services’ affiliate hospital medical director.

The specific authorization granted by the latest Commissioner’s Order, pursuant to the
Department’s DCP regulations, 105 CMR 700.004(H), authorizes currently certified
Massachusetts Paramedics and Advanced EMTs working in connection with an ambulance
service, as well as Paramedics working with an MIH or CEMS program, to administer vaccine
for the prevention of COVID-19, in persons covered by a vaccine emergency use authorization
(EUA), in accordance with this Special Protocol issued by OEMS. Prior to being deployed by
their ambulance service to administer COVID-19 vaccine, such Paramedics and Advanced
EMTs must have successfully completed a vaccination training program approved by their
ambulance service’s AHMD.

PARAMEDIC and ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

a. Provide patient, parent or legal representative with a copy of the Vaccine
   EUA Fact Sheet and answer any questions.

b. Screen for contraindications according to accompanying Special Protocol
   Appendix A1, and/or the CDC/ACIP document (or ascertain the result of
   such screening)

c. Always check the package insert or procedural instructions prior to
   administration of any vaccine. Follow insert or procedural instructions to
   prepare and draw up vaccine dose.

d. Administer IM vaccines at a 90° angle with 22-25-gauge needle. The needle
   length for IM injections depends upon the age, gender, and/or weight of the
   vaccine recipient. (See Table attachment.). Administer IM, according to the
   recommended age-specific dose and schedule. (See Special Protocol
   Appendix A1.)

e. Administer vaccine.

f. Observe patient for an allergic reaction for 15-20 minutes after administering
   vaccine. If an anaphylactic/allergic reaction occurs, treat according to Protocol
   2.2A/2.2P Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis.

g. Report clinically significant adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event
   Reporting System (VAERS) at 1-800-822-7967 or http://www.vaers.hhs.gov/

Protocol Continues
PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

**Implementation Criteria**

Paramedics and Advanced EMTs must be trained and authorized by their AHMD or designee prior to administering COVID-19 vaccine in any form. Under this protocol, Paramedics and Advanced EMTs can only administer vaccine while working for their ambulance service.

Such training must include at minimum the procedures to be followed by paramedics within the setting in which the vaccines are to be administered, for determining type and dose of vaccine to be given, including the identity of staff who will make such determination.

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### Needle Length and Injection Site for IM Injection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender and Weight</th>
<th>Needle Length</th>
<th>Injection Site</th>
<th>Injection Technique</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children (16-18 years)</td>
<td>5/8&quot; - 1&quot;</td>
<td>Deltoid</td>
<td>Depends on Body Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male and Female &lt;60 kg (&lt;130 lbs)</td>
<td>5/8&quot;</td>
<td>Deltoid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male and Female (130-152 lbs)</td>
<td>1&quot;</td>
<td>Deltoid</td>
<td>Do not bunch subcutaneous and muscle tissue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female 70-90kg (152-200 lbs)</td>
<td>1&quot;-1 ½&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male 70kg-118kg (152-260 lbs)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt;90kg (200lbs)</td>
<td>1 ½&quot;</td>
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