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OPERATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
#2021-05-21-01	Ongoing Masking within EMS Bases and EMD Centers		May 21, 2021
Superseded	Released By:	Source:	Pages
N/A	Maine EMS	Maine EMS, Maine CDC, U.S. CDC	1
Approved By:	J. Sam Hurley, MPH, EMPS, NRP (Maine EMS Director)		

On May 13, 2021, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) modifying the federal government recommendations for **non-healthcare settings** that relaxed masking guidance for persons who were fully vaccinated. It is specifically noted that this guidance does *not* override federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

The U.S. CDC also released [specific guidance regarding healthcare professionals](#) as follows:

“In general, fully vaccinated healthcare personnel should continue to wear source control while at work. However, fully vaccinated healthcare personnel could dine and socialize together in break rooms and conduct in-person meetings without source control or physical distancing. **If unvaccinated healthcare personnel are present, everyone should wear source control and unvaccinated healthcare personnel should physically distance from others.**”

Maine EMS acknowledges that approximately 20% of the state’s licensees have opted not to receive the vaccination for various reasons. As a result, there will likely always be situations where at least one person within the station is non-vaccinated. Maine EMS does not feel that it is appropriate to require those individuals to self-identify to their colleagues their personal decision to not get vaccinated. This would likely become extremely problematic for workplace harassment should those persons be readily identified.

As a result, Maine EMS insists that all EMS bases/stations and EMD centers continue to maintain masking policies while working in shared spaces. It is imperative that we take every step possible to keep our crews healthy and to prevent EMS and EMD professionals from taking disease home to their families.

Please don’t hesitate to contact the Maine EMS Office at 207-626-3860 with questions or concerns.

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