

STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES 152 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK COMMISSIONER

> J. SAM HURLEY DIRECTOR

August 19, 2021

Delivered Electronically

RE: Maine CDC's Revised Immunization Rule

Dear Maine EMS Licensee,

I understand that many licensees are frustrated by the postponement of the EMS meeting on the issue of COVID-19 vaccinations. The Board and Maine EMS shares your frustration. Maine EMS staff took adequate steps to ensure we had a 500-attendee cap on our meeting on Tuesday afternoon knowing it would be highly attended. Despite that confirmation the system only allowed for 200 attendees. The decision was made to postpone the meeting after 35 minutes of attempting a work around once it became obvious the technical issue would not be fixed quickly.

The meeting was moved to Monday based on several factors. First, we need to guarantee the participation of the public. We will be starting at 0900 to ensure adequate time for participation and the delay will enhance the ability for individuals to make schedule adjustments to attend. Second, we need to have enough time for the technical support to ensure that we will have the Zoom access rectified.

The delay in meeting raises questions on the dates applicable to the EMS community. EMS licensees are advised to be cognizant of the requirements placed upon them by the Maine CDC. Maine DHHS has regulatory oversight of statewide health services independent of EMS.

I understand there are still many questions. My hope is that we will be able to address those concerns on Monday. Again, despite our meeting on Monday, the input we receive, and the decisions that are made as to what Maine EMS should require of its licensees, there is still the Maine DHHS' rule in place that you are urged to comply with.

Again, thank you for your patience and look forward to hearing your input on Monday.

Respectfully,

Brent Libby

Chair, Maine Board of EMS

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