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To: Illinois EMS Systems
Illinois EMS Medical Directors

From: Ashley Thoele, MBA, BSN, RN
Division Chief, EMS and Highway Safety

Date: March 25, 2020

Re: **Changes to EMS Scope of Practice and Alternate Care Patterns**

As Illinois is now in a state of emergency and the COVID-19 response escalates, there may be requests for variations to the EMS rules and regulations in order to meet the high demand of patient requests.

In addition, many EMS providers may see many of their personnel now on quarantine or isolation due to exposures. Considering this, EMS Systems should submit the following information whenever requesting any waiver for any EMS rule or requirement:

- **Changes to Plans or Staffing –**
 - EMS Systems should define triggers through their local pandemic planning that would require changes in staffing models, equipment, and/or response patterns.
 - Any changes to system plans, such as on scene triage and treat, refusals, and dispatch protocols **MUST** be approved by the System's EMS Medical Director and IDPH.
 - Triggers may be different based on the location in the state, number of providers, and the EMS systems day to day operations.
 - If the system or provider requests a change in staffing plans, a submission must be made if the change is anticipated to be longer than 72 hours. These staffing plans need to be submitted to the RH and RESMC
 - No request will be granted longer than 90 days without a re-evaluation of the request.
 - If a provider requests a change in staffing model, a QA process must be put in place by the local EMS System to have the provider evaluate at least 5 calls during the duration of the request to ensure there were no deficiencies in care due to the staffing change. This information will be submitted to and retained by the system and made available to IDPH upon request.
- **How to obtain provisional certification– see Attachment A**
 - EMS systems must formulate a training and testing plan for reinstating or provisionally certifying EMS personnel who intend to work in their system.
 - All providers must have a valid CPR certification to be granted provisional licensure during a pandemic.
 - All documentation to ensure quality care in the form of quality assurance and improvement will be retained by the EMS Systems and made available to the Department upon request.

All requests should go thru the REMSC with validation that the EMT/paramedic has been educated and trained to their level of licensure

Please contact your IDPH Regional EMS Coordinator (REMSC) or me if there are questions.