



**FINDINGS AND ORDER OF THE
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

Guidance on EMS Preparedness for Coronavirus Covid-19

TO:

**BLS Provider Organizations
AEMT Provider Organizations
Paramedic Provider Organizations
BLS Non-Transport Provider Organizations
ALS Non-Transport Provider Organizations**

ORDER NUMBER: W0030-2020

Pursuant to the authority of Indiana Code § 4-21.5-3-6 and Indiana Code § 16-31-3-5, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (Department) enters this Findings and Order in response the Public Health Emergency of the Coronavirus Covid-19 and with regard to the operational rules for the certification held by or being issued to Indiana EMS provider organizations.

The Public Health Emergency of the coronavirus Covid-19 has created potential challenges for the emergency services providers of Indiana. Many providers have questioned if they may be waived from the EMS rules in order to prepare and respond to his emerging health emergency, including actions such as creating a specified EMS transport vehicle with limited equipment for purposes of transporting suspected coronavirus Covid-19 patients. This Guidance and Order clarifies what waivers are being issued generally. More specific waiver requests may be submitted as needed.

**I.
FINDINGS**

Upon review of all of the information available to staff and after consultation with several EMS providers, the staff of the EMS branch of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security finds that:

The circumstances of the Public Health Emergency demonstrate that

- (1) compliance with the rule will impose an undue hardship on the Applicant; and
- (2) either:

- (A) noncompliance with the rule; or

- (B) compliance with an alternative requirement approved by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security;

- will not jeopardize the quality of patient care.

II. ORDER

Based upon the Findings set forth above, the Department Orders the following:

1. For the State of Indiana, the Governor has indicated that the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is the lead agency for coordination of response to the Public Health Emergency. EMS providers should monitor the ISDH for guidance and direction: <https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm>. The ISDH link does include Guidance to Emergency Responders. Furthermore, extensive guidance from the CDC can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html> Provider organizations should be alert for the changing recommendations in PPE and post-exposure guidance.

2. EMS provider organizations may work with their Medical Directors and their dispatch centers to develop 911 screening policies. The dispatch protocols are within the discretion of the dispatch medical director and are not regulated by the EMS rules.

3. EMS provider organizations may alter their medical protocols by order of their Medical Director. This may be modifying existing medical protocol or via a specified protocol specifically addressing suspected coronavirus Covid-19. A Medical Director approved protocol may also delineate appropriate alternate means of transport in consideration of ISDH and CDC guidelines. Any protocol modifications should be reported to the appropriate district EMS Field Manager.

4. Although not a current ISDH nor IDHS recommendation, EMS provider organizations may dedicate a State EMS certified emergency response vehicle (ambulance and/or non-transport vehicle including those under 836 IAC 2-14) for response and/or transport of suspected coronavirus patients.

- a. A blanket waiver is granted for 836 IAC 1-3-5 Emergency Care Equipment for ambulances in that equipment may be minimized (temporarily removed) to reduce the risk of contamination EXCEPT that the following must remain on the ambulance:
 - i. (1) respiratory and resuscitation equipment items (A) through (L)
 - ii. (5) person protection/universal precautions equipment must be available but may be modified pursuant to ISDH or CDC recommendations or if there are vendor shortages of certain PPE equipment.
 - iii. (6) miscellaneous equipment must be available for assessment and diagnostic testing such as blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes.
- b. If an ambulance is modified pursuant to this Waiver Order, the EMS District Manager must be notified via email of the change.
- c. An ambulance provider organization must maintain at least one other fully equipment compliant ambulance in order to modify the equipment of an ambulance under this Order.
- d. A blanket waiver is granted for 836 IAC 1-11-4 Basic Life Support Non-transport Emergency Care Equipment in that 1) the “non-transport vehicle” may be utilized for the transport of stable suspected patients by other means than ambulance if so approved by provider organization medical

director and 2) equipment may be minimized (temporarily removed) to reduce the risk of contamination EXCEPT that the following must remain on the vehicle:

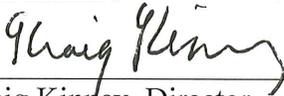
- i. (1) respiratory and resuscitation equipment items (A) through (G)
 - ii. (3) miscellaneous equipment must be available for assessment and diagnostic testing such as blood pressure cuffs and stethoscopes as well as PPE.
- e. **At no time should a patient be deprived of the medical standard of care for their present condition, eg. If the patient is critical and needs other interventions, then the provider organization shall send an ambulance that is fully compliant with the equipment requirements of the rule.**

III.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF FINDINGS AND ORDER

This Order is effective immediately and will expire in 90 days, subject to renewal. This Order may also be rescinded by further Order if the Public Health Emergency ends.

SO ORDERED.



By: Kraig Kinney, Director
Emergency Medical Services
Indiana Department of Homeland Security

03/11/2020
Date



By: Michael A. Kaufmann, MD, FACEP, FAEMS
State EMS Medical Director
Indiana Department of Homeland Security

3/11/2020
Date