



County of Santa Clara  
Emergency Medical Services System  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

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| <b>Number:</b>    | <b>AO 2020-002</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>     | <b>EMT Certification, Paramedic Accreditation and EMS System ID Badges</b> |
| <b>Effective:</b> | <b>April 1, 2020</b>   |

**I. Declaration**

The Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services Agency has determined that an unscheduled temporary alteration to certain *Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policies* is required. Consistent with *Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policy 109: Policy Development and Implementation*, the EMS Director, or designee, may issue Administrative Orders when immediate changes are necessary.

**II. Statement of Change and Rationale**

The following policies are affected by this Administrative Order based on California Executive order N-39-20, and California EMSA Policy (attached) to implement California Executive Order N-39-20.

- 201: Emergency Medical Technician Certification
- 205: Paramedic Accreditation
- 208: EMS Field Supervisor Credentialing
- 617: EMS System Identification Badge

All EMS personnel (EMT, AEMT, and paramedic) with licenses or certifications (or local accreditation) expiring in March, April, May, or June of 2020 shall have their license or certification expiration dates extended until July 31, 2020.

The requirement for a completed skills competency verification by EMTs for renewal or reinstatement is waived for the duration of the COVID-19 declared state of emergency. EMTs renewing during the COVID-19 declared state of emergency that cannot or have not completed a skills examination already shall submit a valid skills form within 6 months after the end of the COVID-19 declared state of emergency.

The National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) provisional registrations or a successful completion of the NREMT written (knowledge) Assessment exam shall be accepted for purposes of certification, licensure or reinstatement. EMS personnel with a provisional NREMT registration shall be required to receive a full NREMT registration within 6 months of the NREMT allowing testing. EMS personnel who have successfully completed the NREMT written Assessment exam shall be required to complete the NREMT psychomotor exam within 6 months of the NREMT allowing testing.

Santa Clara County EMS System ID Badges shall be valid based on current state certification or license expiration dates.

**III. Execution**

Administrative Order # 2020-002 is in effect as of April 1, 2020. This Administrative Order has resulted in a temporary alteration to Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policies through July 31, 2020. Starting August 1, 2020 personnel shall refer to existing policies.



Ken Miller, MD, PhD  
EMS Medical Director



Jackie Lowther, RN, MSN, MBA  
EMS Agency Director

Please direct any questions to Ken Miller, EMS Medical Director, by phone at 408.794.0615, or via email at [kenneth.miller@ems.sccgov.org](mailto:kenneth.miller@ems.sccgov.org)

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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**DATE:** March 30, 2020

**TO:** EMS Community

**FROM:** Dave Duncan MD  
Director

**SUBJECT:** POLICY TO IMPLEMENT THE EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR REGARDING EMS LICENSURE, CERTIFICATION, AND TRAINING

On the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-39-20, which states in part:

*“6. To ensure the continued operation of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system without unduly endangering the people of California during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority may as necessary and only for the duration of the declared emergency, suspend any licensing, certification, or training requirements for EMS personnel as contained in the EMS Act Chapters 2, 3, and 4, and accompanying regulations, including the authority to permit EMS personnel to provide services in any setting as authorized by the Director for the performance of the current scope of practice. The Authority shall provide guidance to local emergency medical services authorities directing the appropriate qualifications and scope of practice for each classification operating under a waiver based on sound clinical guidelines and the individual’s training, education, and work experience. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Authority’s website.”*

In order to implement the Governor’s order waiving statutory and regulatory requirements for EMS Personnel to ensure the continued operation of emergency medical services, the EMS Authority is directing the California EMS System consisting of local EMS agencies, certifying entities, EMS providers and employers, paramedics, AEMTs and EMTs to implement the following actions:

1. All EMS personnel (EMT, AEMT and paramedic) with licenses or certifications (or local accreditation) expiring in March, April, May, or June of 2020 shall have their license or certification expiration dates extended until July 31, 2020.
2. EMTs, AEMTs, and paramedics shall be allowed to perform their current scope of practice in hospitals, medical facilities, alternate care sites, shelter care sites,

in-home settings, or any additional setting approved by the director of the Authority for purposes of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Any EMT, AEMT or paramedic whose license or certification has expired in the six (6) month period prior to March 30, 2020, will be allowed to function under their previous scope of practice for the duration of the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency, provided that they do not have a history of license or certification discipline.
4. The requirement for a completed skills competency verification by EMTs for renewal or reinstatement is waived for the duration of the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency.
5. For the duration of the COVID-19 declared State of Emergency, training programs shall:
  - a. Allow for the use of high-fidelity simulation in place of the 10 clinical contacts for the purposes of training and graduating EMT students.
  - b. Allow for the use of high-fidelity simulation in place of 20 of a paramedic's required 40 ALS contacts during the field internship phase of training.
  - c. Suspend EMT skills exams for certification.
  - d. Inform paramedic students in writing of the need to extend clinical and/or field internship placement timelines with an estimated time of doing so.
6. The National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) provisional registrations or a successful completion of the NREMT written (knowledge) Assessment exam shall be accepted for purposes of certification, licensure or reinstatement. EMS personnel with a provisional NREMT registration shall be required to receive a full NREMT registration within 6 months of the NREMT allowing testing. EMS personnel who have successfully completed the NREMT written Assessment exam shall be required to complete the NREMT psychomotor exam within 6 months of the NREMT allowing testing.