

Staffing During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Purpose: To provide direction for staffing alterations and vehicle usage during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- I. Ambulance Staffing
 - A. Advanced life support (ALS) vehicles operate with the minimum staffing of a paramedic and a medical first responder (MFR), or higher.
 - B. Limited ALS (LALS) vehicles operate with the minimum staffing of an advanced emergency medical technician specialist (AEMT-S) and an MFR, or higher.
 - C. Basic Life Support (BLS) vehicles operate with the minimum staffing of an emergency medical technician and an MFR, or higher.
- II. Vehicle Status
 - A. Life support agencies (LSA), when staffing is not available for vehicles as they are currently licensed may staff them at a lower level to respond to requests for service.
 - B. A vehicle that is licensed as an ALS vehicle may respond without a paramedic, if equipment that is outside the currently staffed personnel's scope of practice is secured in a way that it is not accessible.
 - C. A vehicle that is licensed as an LALS vehicle may respond without an AEMT-S, if equipment that is outside the currently staffed personnel's scope of practice is secured in a way that it is not accessible.
 - D. A vehicle that is licensed as a BLS vehicle may respond without an EMT, if equipment that is outside the currently staffed personnel's scope of practice is secured in a way that it is not accessible. A BLS ambulance must have an EMT in order to transport.
- III. Equipment and Medications
 - A. Equipment and medications that are accessible at any time, must be within the scope of practice of the personnel currently staffing the vehicle.
 - B. It is acceptable to utilize ALS equipment in their BLS functionality (e.g. monitors set to AED mode)
- IV. Scope of practice
 - A. Personnel continue to be limited to their licensed scope of practice.
 - B. This protocol does not preclude Healthcare providers who maintain current Michigan health professional licenses outside of EMS (e.g. RN, MD, PA) and that continuously work in emergency services, from practicing at their scope of practice in an ambulance with MCA approval. This scope is not covered by the level of license of an LSA vehicle.
- V. Reporting

If an agency finds that they need to alter their staff in accordance with this protocol, they should report the status to the MCA in which the altered staffing occurred.