



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

**Guidance on EMS Preparedness for Coronavirus Covid-19  
General Waiver #3**

**TO:**

**All Certified or Licensed EMS Individuals  
All EMS Provider Organizations  
All Supervising Hospitals  
All Training Institutions & Officials  
All EMS Medical Directors**

**ORDER NUMBER: W0032-2020**

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 to 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 this emerging health emergency. This Guidance and Order clarifies what waivers are being issued generally. More specific waiver requests may be submitted for consideration 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 website 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. IDHS has a presentation in ACADIS provider accounts that will continue to be updated as information changes, search for “EMS - Emergency Medical Technician - LMS Content: COVID - 19 Information for EMS and Dispatch”

2. The IDHS EMS webpage has important information including all prior guidance issued by IDHS in conjunction with the ISDH and also the prior two Blanket Waivers which remain in effect. See <https://www.in.gov/dhs/4142.htm>

### Operations

3. EMS providers that are heading to and from working in an EMS capacity is “essential business” consistent with the Governors Order #20-08. If a certified individual does not have a work badge or other identifying means, they should log into their ACADIS portal and print out their current EMS certification/licensure to carry on their person.

4. 836 IAC 2-2-1 which provides the minimum staffing for a “paramedic response” or ALS response is WAVIED in the following:

- a. If a certified EMS person is on the ambulance (including operating the ambulance), then a Registered Nurse, licensed physician or licensed physician’s assistant may substitute a paramedic for providing patient care for an ALS patient when
  - i. The transport is an interfacility transfer;
  - ii. There is a staffing shortage or demand surge related to the public health emergency; and
  - iii. The substituting healthcare professional has received an overview of the ambulance safety procedures, operations and equipment availability & location.
- b. If this WAIVER needs to be utilized, provider organizations should report usage to their EMS District Manager within 24 hours so IDHS can track usage.

5. All EMS provider organizations should have an EMResource log in to track their status on valuable items such as **PPE status**. This tool is crucial for an overview of what resources are needed for EMS and for IDHS and ISDH planning purposes. If your provider organization is not currently utilizing EMResource, please contact your District EMS Manager for assistance in registering and using the system. However, currently **specific PPE requests** should go through the provider organization’s county EMA and WEBEOC.

6. Image Trend has Covid-19 Worksheet that can be utilized by providers and will give us some feedback on data. The worksheet is available to those using the State website. Those that purchased their own Image Trend account will need to add the worksheet into their system.

7. FSSA Division of Mental Health is operating 2-1-1 call centers and is in need of assistance staffing. The work is done remotely and only requires a brief training. EMS providers that are quarantined and wishing to still assist the system would be excellent candidates for this. Contact is Kelso Linville at [Kelsi.Linville@fssa.IN.gov](mailto:Kelsi.Linville@fssa.IN.gov)

### **Certifications**

8. Pursuant to Executive Order 20-09 from the Governor, all pending EMS certifications (EMR, EMT, AEMT, paramedic, Primary Instructor, Training Institution, Supervising Hospital, and all provider organizations) with an expiration date during the public health emergency (currently the March 31, 2020 expirations) are extended to May 22, 2020. The ACADIS portal will be updated to reflect this extension for those certifications that have not already renewed. The Public Health Emergency is of unknown duration, therefore providers with a June 30, 2020, should plan accordingly as that expiration date very likely will remain valid. All other future expiration dates remain as scheduled at this time.

9. The National Registry of EMTs has issued a provisional status certification:

Provisional Certifications will be automatically assigned to any candidate that (1) completes an educational program at the EMR, EMT, AEMT or Paramedic level and (2) successfully passes the National Registry's cognitive examination. The requirement for completing the psychomotor examination is suspended for the duration of the national emergency or until psychomotor examinations can be safely reinstated in the United States.

During the Public Health Emergency, The State of Indiana will accept a NREMT provisional certification submitted with an Application for Reciprocity for the appropriate certification level submitted along with a copy of the NREMT provisional certification. A Temporary Certification will be issued with an expiration date of 120 days. Temporary certification provisions are 836 IAC 4-3-3 (EMR), 836 IAC 4-4-3 (EMT), 836 4-7-4 (AEMT), and 836 IAC 4-9-6 (paramedic).

### **EMS Education**

10. EMT didactic course instruction may continue. The local Training Institutions have the authority to dictate the means of instruction and an increased used of distance or on-line education is permitted.

11. EMT clinical requirements may continue. As a reminder, accreditation bodies do accept the use of simulation (per CoAEMSP). During the Public Health Emergency period, training institutions may elect to require additional ambulance field internship hours as a substitute for hospital clinical experience as well.

12. The portfolio required is NOT waived due to the fact that it is essential that there be verified and validated student performance of psychomotor skills. Training Institutions may consider how to meet the requirements or may need to postpone classes until they can do so.

13. The NREMT has announced that Pearson VUE Centers in many areas are opening on March 25 for essential EMS testing. Candidates should log into their NREMT account to see if any centers are available to them.
14. EMT Cognitive testing is not available through Ivy Tech at this time.
15. EMT psychomotor examinations are cancelled during the Stay at Home Period through April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**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.**



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



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Date