

Summary of Actions Taken Under the COVID -19 State of Emergency. The EMS Board and MIEMSS issued nine Public Notices taking action under the additional authority granted by Governor Hogan in his emergency orders. Under Governor Hogan’s “Termination Roadmap”, these orders expired August 15, 2021, unless otherwise noted.

Public Notice #1 created an expedited path for individuals to obtain provisional EMS certification or licensure to augment the EMS response during the emergency. More than 1600 individuals became provisional EMS clinicians. MIEMSS and the EMS Board issued regulations to provide path for full credentialing which must be achieved by February 11, 2022. Provisional EMS clinicians may continue to function while they achieve full credentialing.

The regulation for moving from provisional to full status is here:

<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/30/30.02.02.13.htm>

Public Notice #1 also modified to the protocol to allow for an altered crew configuration of Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) teams consisting of a single paramedic. Subsequently, the EMS Board adopted this change to the protocol with a requirement for additional training so it does not expire.

Public Notice #2 created a registry within MIEMSS to credential Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Clinical Externs to allow them to practice in a limited capacity during the emergency. More than 1500 nursing students and more than 100 respiratory care students. This notice expired September 15, 2021.

Public Notice #3 allowed MIEMSS to waive certain personnel requirements for commercial ambulance services as long as the patient needs are met. This was used to allow a nurse/nurse configuration on certain specialty care transports that would have otherwise required a nurse/paramedic configuration. This was scheduled to end on September 15 but the EMS Board has proposed a regulation which would allow for continued waivers and the regulation has been approved on an emergency basis pending adoption. That emergency regulation is here:

<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/30/30.09.04.08.htm>

Public Notice #3 also allowed Maryland licensed commercial ambulance service to use vehicles that were licensed in another state in Maryland with a waiver. This notice expired September 15, 2021.

Public Notice #4 created an expedited path for individuals to obtain provisional EMD licensure during the emergency. Very few individuals became licensed under this provision but they will have until February 11, 2022 to achieve full credentialing under the regulations issued by the EMS Board.

Public Notice #5 allowed EMT psychomotor testing to occur after completing the cognitive exam and expired August 15, 2021.

Public Notice #6 allowed Paramedics and EMTs to vaccinate the public under appropriate supervision. While the notice expired August 15, 2021, MIEMSS sought to change the law regarding paramedics as vaccinators and was successful in the 2021 Legislative Session. Under the statute paramedics may administer flu and COVID-19 vaccines to the public under certain circumstances. Under a separate order issued by the Maryland Department of Health, EMTs and

CRTs have the option to vaccinate as laypeople, not as EMS clinicians, under certain circumstances.

Public Notice #7 permitted EMS clinicians to provide non-EMS care at state-facilitated alternative care sites such as the Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital (BCCFH). This notice expired August 15, 2021

Public Notice #8 extended all EMS clinician licenses and certificates that would have otherwise expired in April or June 2021 to October or December 2021, depending on level and remains in effect.

Public Notice #9 allows commercial ambulance services to use non-certified personnel to drive a BLS ambulance if issued a waiver by MIEMSS. These individuals must be licensed by the Public Service Commission and meet certain training requirements. Additionally, the services must provide data so that MIEMSS can assess its effectiveness in expanding commercial ambulance service availability. It expires October 15, 2021. However, the EMS Board has proposed a regulation to allow for continued waivers. The regulation has been approved on an emergency basis pending adoption. That emergency regulation is here:

<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/30/30.09.04.08.htm>