



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

MEMORANDUM

To: EMS Service Directors

From: Christy Kresse, BS, NRP
EMS Section Chief

Date: April 9, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Response Suspension of EMS Rules

The Arkansas Department of Health, Section of EMS requested and obtained approval for the suspension of several EMS Rules. To track the usage of suspended Rules for both regulatory and data purposes, it is the responsibility of the service director to notify the Section of EMS of implemented changes of the Rules in real-time. Below is a brief description of the affected Rule. Please see the website for a complete list of the Rules suspended. <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/rules-and-regulations>

- Issuance of a temporary license for expired personnel in good standing with the Department within the last four (4) years to work under the direction of a medical director for an EMS agency.
- Tired Response- removal of the emergency medical dispatcher certification to allow for services to use existing EMS dispatchers to screen non-emergent calls and prioritize emergencies.
- Suspend the ratio of permitted vehicles to allow the ambulance service to flex permitted ambulances based on available staffing and vehicle resources.
- Suspend the 2-minute reaction time for proper triage screening and to ensure the protection of the responding providers for proper PPE and decontamination.
- New ambulances replacing or being added to permitted vehicle roster may forgo inspection if capacity is overwhelmed.
- Allow for upgrades and downgrades as needed, thus suspending the definition of the level of licensed ambulance services and removing restrictions as to what

level of care required to provide in permitted vehicles.

- Allow ambulance to carry equipment in an ambulance as needed suspending the requirement to carry specific equipment related to ambulance service license. DEA requirements are still applicable.
- The ambulance staffing requirement is suspended to allow ambulance services to staff ambulances with the highest level of trained personnel available to respond for service (physicians, nurses, or other licensed healthcare providers).
- Emergency Vehicle Operator's (EVO) education requirements are waived. Civilian drivers may be utilized.
- Licensure renewal extension- directive has already been issued to extend the renewal deadline to June 30, 2022.
https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/license_renewal_extension.pdf
- The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) will align with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) for provisional licensure status, providing provisional licensure for advanced EMT and paramedic who meet eligibility requirements of successful course completion and NREMT cognitive exam.
- Treatment no transport protocol require oversight by EMS medical directors.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Section. Your dedication to prehospital care is greatly appreciated.