

Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccine Administration – Authorized Activities

This Guidance Document describes the Kansas Board of EMS' current approach to administration of vaccines, specific to influenza and COVID-19, by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT), and Paramedics.

Applicable law

- K.S.A. 65-6121 (a)(5) allows an emergency medical technician to administer “medications as approved by the board by appropriate routes;”
- K.S.A. 65-6120 (a) allows an advanced emergency medical technician to perform “any activities identified by K.S.A. 65-6121, and amendments thereto;”
- K.S.A. 65-6144(a), K.S.A. 65-6120(b), and K.S.A. 65-6121(a) require that in order to administer medications approved by the Board by appropriate routes, EMTs and AEMTS must successfully complete an approved course of instruction, local specialized device training, and competency validation and must be authorized by medical protocols or by order when direct communication is maintained by radio, telephone, or video conference monitored by a physician, physician assistant when authorized by a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse when authorized by a physician or a professional nurse when authorized by a physician.

The Board's Current Approach to the Applicable Law:

1) Administration of Vaccine, specific to Influenza and COVID-19, by EMTs and AEMTs

The Board considers administration of influenza vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines to be approved as an “administration of medications as approved by the board by appropriate routes,” as set forth in K.S.A. 65-6121(a)(5), and within the authorized activities of EMTs and AEMTs.

The Board reserves the right to otherwise enforce K.S.A. 65-6144(a), K.S.A. 65-6120(b), and K.S.A. 65-6121(a), which requires that in order to administer medications, EMTs and AEMTS must successfully complete an approved course of instruction, local specialized device training, and competency validation and must be authorized by medical protocols or by order when direct communication is maintained by radio, telephone, or video conference monitored by a physician, physician assistant when authorized by a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse when authorized by a physician or a professional nurse when authorized by a physician.

2) Administration of Vaccine, specific to Influenza and COVID-19, by Paramedics

Administration of influenza vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines by Paramedics is expressly permitted by statute, and therefore, such activity is not addressed by this Guidance Document. See K.S.A. 65-6119.

The Board may choose to act at variance with the expressed position of this Guidance Document if it finds there is a reasonable justification for such variance and such justification outweighs the affected person's reliance on this Guidance Document. *See* K.S.A. 77-438(c). This Guidance Document may be withdrawn by the Board at any time without notice.