



State of Maryland
Maryland Institute *for* Emergency Medical Services Systems

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**Senate Bill 210: Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics –
Immunization Administration – Effective Date**

MIEMSS Position: Support

Bill Summary: SB 210 extends the ability of Paramedics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and influenza immunizations as part of public health outreach efforts conducted by a health department or hospital / hospital system until January 1, 2030.

Rationale:

- Chapter 799 of the Laws of 2021 authorized Paramedics to administer COVID-19 and influenza immunizations as part of public health outreach efforts conducted by a local health department or a Maryland hospital or hospital system (SB 67 – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Vaccine Administration) until January 1, 2023. Chapter 404 of the Laws of 2022 (HB 404) subsequently extended the ability of Paramedics to administer these immunizations until January 1, 2025.
- During the height of the COVID Pandemic, EMS administered over 80,000 vaccinations to members of the general public as part of public health outreach conducted in partnership with local health departments and hospitals / hospital systems and an additional 21,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to State, county and local government employees during that same time period. Nineteen (19) public safety EMS jurisdictions and two (2) licensed commercial ambulances services participated in the COVID-19 vaccination effort. See report at: <https://www.miemss.org/home/Portals/0/Docs/LegislativeReports/LR-Use-Paramedics-Public-Health-Vaccination-Prgs-202112.pdf?ver=2022-01-27-090453-303> (see over).
- The need continues. During the past year, eight (8) EMS jurisdictions have partnered with local health departments to administer COVID and/or influenza vaccines, including Baltimore City Fire Department which administered more than 1100 influenza vaccines.
- As frontline healthcare practitioners, Paramedics are uniquely positioned to reach underserved populations and respond swiftly to community public health needs.
- Given the uncertain trajectory of COVID-19 and the annual surge of seasonal influenza, Paramedics will be needed to continue to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters and influenza immunizations to the general public as part of public health efforts.
- The ability of Paramedics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and influenza immunizations is an important part of public health vaccination outreach efforts conducted by a health department or hospital / hospital system and should be extended.

MIEMSS Supports SB 210 and Urges a Favorable Report

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**EMS – Public Health Partnerships for
COVID-19 and Influenza Immunizations**

In 2021, nineteen (19) public safety EMS jurisdictions and two (2) licensed commercial ambulance services began partnering with local health departments and hospital / hospitals systems to conduct public health outreach efforts to provide COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations to the public, including:

- Allegany County EMS
- City of Annapolis Fire Department EMS Division
- Anne Arundel County Fire Department
- Baltimore City Fire Department
- Baltimore County Fire Department
- Butler Medical Transport
- Calvert County Fire/Rescue/EMS
- Caroline County EMS
- Cecil County Fire/Rescue/EMS
- Charles County EMS
- Frederick County Fire & Rescue
- Hatzalah of Baltimore
- Garrett County EMS
- Howard County Fire & Rescue
- Maryland State Police Aviation Command
- Montgomery County Fire & Rescue
- Ocean City Fire Department
- Prince George's County Fire / EMS Department
- Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services
- Washington County Division of Emergency Services
- Wicomico County / Salisbury EMS