



COVID VACCINE PRIORITIZATION FOR PARAMEDICS AND OTHER EMS PROFESSIONALS

A Position Statement of the International Association of Flight & Critical Care Paramedics

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The International Association of Flight and Critical Care Paramedics (IAFCCP) call on elected officials and those in appointed leadership positions at federal, state, and local government levels to uphold and implement the recommendations put forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), ensuring that Paramedics and other EMS professionals are accounted for in the first tier (1A) of healthcare providers to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

Paramedics and other EMS personnel are, without question, the front-line healthcare providers in the United States and around the world. These professionals are not only the first healthcare providers to respond to and care for patients in emergency situations but are also the primary mechanism that allows for patients to receive the care they need, when it is needed, by responding to patients when they require medical care; as well as facilitating the transfer of patients between medical facilities.

Without Paramedics and other EMS professionals, the healthcare system and its ability to handle acute medical needs is put at risk. Patients with acute illness or injury will not be able to receive immediate care, stabilization, or transport to hospitals. Further, patients in healthcare facilities will not be able to be transferred to other healthcare facilities that are better equipped to care for their medical condition or have space and capability to care for them.

Current evidence indicates that these healthcare professionals have a risk of COVID-19 infection that is greater than any other healthcare provider ¹. The need for protection and support of Paramedics and other EMS professionals in response to this pandemic cannot be understated. The necessity of ensuring that these professionals are among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccination is paramount to the

entire healthcare system. Elected and appointed officials must abide by and implement the recommendations of the CDC and their ACIP and guarantee that these healthcare professionals receive the COVID-19 vaccination during the initial phase or tier of any vaccination plan. Anything less is unequivocally putting the lives of Paramedics and other EMS professionals, the lives of citizens, and the entire healthcare system at risk.

¹Maguire, B. J., MD, O'Neill, B. J., PhD, Phelps, S., JD, Maniscalco, P. M., PhD(c), Gerard, D. R., MS, & Handal, K. A., MD. (2020, September 25). COVID-19 fatalities among EMS clinicians. Retrieved December 09, 2020, from <https://www.ems1.com/emsproducts/personal-protective-equipment-ppe/articles/covid-19-fatalities-among-ems-clinicians-BMzHbuegn1xNLrP/>