



EMS Information Bulletin 2020-09

DATE: March 25, 2020

SUBJECT: Out of State Licensed EMS Agencies

TO: PA EMS Agencies
PA EMS Stakeholders
PA Regional EMS Councils
PA Ambulance Association

FROM: Dylan Ferguson, Director
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PA Department of Health
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A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a hand-drawn circle. The signature appears to be 'DF' or similar initials.

Pursuant to §8129(a) of the EMS Act, a license is required to be issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health in order to operate, conduct, maintain, advertise or otherwise engage in or profess to be engaged in operating or providing emergency medical services within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, unless a specific exemption to the licensure requirement applies.

Furthermore, §8129(r)(2) states that an EMS agency is exempt if *“an EMS agency licensed in another state and not under this chapter that is dispatched to respond to an emergency within this Commonwealth when an EMS vehicle or service licensed under this chapter is unable to respond within a reasonable time or its response is not sufficient to deal with the emergency.”*

In an effort to prepare for, respond to and mitigate the impacts COVID-19 on the Pennsylvania EMS system, and healthcare systems, the Bureau of EMS (Bureau) is interpreting the COVID-19 response as an emergency in which there may not be sufficient resources available to respond to the emergency. As Governor Wolf has signed a disaster declaration to allow for response to and recovery from COVID-19, any EMS agencies that hold licensure in a state other than Pennsylvania and is requested to respond to an emergent issue including interfacility transports within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may do so under the exemption outlined in §8129(r)(2) until such time as the disaster declaration for COVID-19 ceases.