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August 19, 2021

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH
Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health

RE: Inclusion of EMS workers in State Health Officer order

Dear Dr. Aragón,

On behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), I am writing to urge CDPH to require that Emergency Medical Service (EMS) workers be included in the Health Care Worker Vaccine Requirement order established on August 5, 2021.

As stated in the order, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), and the other health care facility types identified in the order are high-risk settings where COVID-19 outbreaks can have severe consequences for vulnerable populations including hospitalization, severe illness, and death. With cases and hospitalizations of COVID-19 rising throughout the state and increased circulation of the highly transmissible Delta variant, CCLHO believes that EMS workers should be included as a health care worker, because they are frequently exposed to other staff and highly vulnerable patients in the facilities listed in the order.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

We thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration with you about matters of importance to the state and local health officers. Should you have any questions, please contact me by email at karen.relucio@countyofnapa.org or by phone at (707) 253-4566.

Sincerely,

Karen Relucio, MD
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers

