



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
Office of Emergency Medical Services  
67 Forest St  
Marlborough, MA 01752

CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO  
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS  
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

Tel: 617-753-7300  
www.mass.gov/dph

**EMERGENCY WAIVER**

TO: All Licensed Ambulance Services  
FROM: W. Scott Cluett, III, Director  
RE: Waiver for EMS Transport of Emergency Patients in Impending Childbirth or with Pregnancy Complications to Designated Alternate Sites on Hospital Grounds  
DATE: April 3, 2020

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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to work with federal, state and local partners on the outbreak of novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, and we continue to appreciate the essential role you have in responding to this evolving situation.

Pursuant to the Commissioner of Public Health's authority under G.L. c. 111C, §22, and for the length of the COVID-19 public health emergency, certain provisions of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Regulations, 105 CMR 170.000, have been suspended through this waiver.

The purpose of this waiver is to alleviate hospital emergency department overcrowding and reduce the spread of infectious disease due to COVID-19, by allowing EMS to bring patients in impending childbirth, or with pregnancy complications, by ambulance directly to a labor and delivery department, or other alternate site designated by the hospital on its grounds for such patients, instead of to the hospital's emergency department.

**Term of the Suspension:**

This order shall be effective:

From: Immediate

To: Termination of the COVID-19 State of Emergency

**Effective section:** 105 CMR 170.020 Definitions

“Appropriate Health Care Facility” shall mean:

An emergency department, either physically located within an acute care hospital license by the Department pursuant to 105 CMR 130.000 to provide emergency services, or in a satellite emergency facility approved by the Department pursuant to 130.821, or an alternate site on the hospital's grounds, designated by the acute care hospital, for the reception of emergency patients in impending childbirth or pregnancy complications, that is closest geographically or conforms to a Department-approved point of entry plan.

For further information or this waiver, you may contact Brendan Murphy, at [Brendan.P.Murphy@state.ma.us](mailto:Brendan.P.Murphy@state.ma.us).