TO: All EMS Staff

FROM: Russ Hall, Fire Chief

DATE: 12-21-2023

**RE:** DPH Vaccination Reporting Mandate

On November 27, 2023 the Massachusetts Department of Public Health enacted a mandate requiring all ambulance services to report the vaccination status of all EMS employees by February 15, 2024. There are two components to this mandate as listed below:

1. Access to both the COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations must be provided to all health care providers. The department has made arrangements with Holden Urgent Care to provide these vaccinations to any member who needs or wants the vaccination on 12/26 and 12/29 at no out of pocket cost. If interested please contact Captain Naiman by 12/22 to sign up. We have also arranged another option at Heywood Hospital Occupational Health for any member who does not have health insurance or who would incur a cost in receiving the vaccinations elsewhere. Please see the admin office if you need to make an appointment with Heywood.
2. Documentation for each individual of vaccination proof. This requirement mandates that the department keep a record of each individual’s proof of vaccination for Influenza and COVID. The department has a vaccination/declination form that needs to be filled out with your wishes for this requirement. There are three options on this form, options 1 and 2 are for the exemption or declination of Influenza or COVID vaccination and option 3 is for reporting if you received either vaccination and the date along with proof of vaccination.

We intend to comply with the provisions of this DPH mandate as voluntary vaccinations are an important part of our healthcare system and the department supports the health and well-being of our members. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.