



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA EMS, INC.**

930 Executive Way Suite 150, Redding, CA 96002-0635

Phone: (530) 229-3979

Fax: (530) 229-3984

**MEMORANDUM**  
**URGENT INFORMATION**

To: Public Health, County Health Officers, Hospital Administrators, Hospital CNOs, ALS, BLS and AED Providers, Air Providers

From: Dr. Jeffrey Kepple, Medical Director Nor-Cal EMS

Date: June 25, 2020

Subject: Local Optional Scope for **EMRs**, EMTs, AEMTs, Paramedics – Nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collection for COVID-19 testing

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This is an addendum to the memorandum sent March 26, 2020. Nor-Cal EMS will include Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) in the local optional scope of practice (LOSOP) for the administration of nasopharyngeal specimen collection for COVID-19. The scope of practice is approved for the length of the emergency declaration.

This LOSOP enables EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs, and Paramedics to utilize the technique of Nasopharyngeal Swab (NP swab) collection for COVID-19 testing. This optional scope is only to be initiated if requested by a local hospital or public health agency experiencing a gap in testing capacity or capabilities. If initiated, providers will be required to complete the Just in Time nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collection training, skills demonstration competency evaluation and the written examination. The collections of specimens are to be conducted under the oversight of a nurse, clinical laboratory scientist, advanced practitioner or a physician.

EMR, EMT, AEMT and Paramedic nasopharyngeal specimen collection may be performed at POD (point of distribution) campaigns and drive-up testing sites. Other pandemic testing locations may be determined by approval of the Medical Director of the LEMSA.

Included with this memorandum are copies of:

- Nor-Cal EMS Policy #14-0103 COVID-19/Respiratory Virus Specimen Collection - Nasopharyngeal Swab
- Nasopharyngeal Specimen Collection Just in Time Training
- Written Exam and Answer Key
- Competency form
- Training Roster

Please contact Nor-Cal EMS at 530-229-3979 with any questions.