



**State of New Jersey**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA  
*Commissioner*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 23-001 (REVISED)**

**List of Recognized First Responder Training Programs Pursuant to P.L. 2021, c. 477 as amended by 2022, c. 132**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Health Care Facilities Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 to -26, and N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 to -74, the Department of Health (Department) is responsible for the licensure and inspection of Basic Life Support (BLS) service providers and the Department promulgated rules, specifically N.J.A.C. 8:40, in furtherance of these statutory duties; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 8:40 sets out the operational standards, such as the personnel and equipment, that are required for in-service BLS ambulances. To this end, N.J.A.C. 8:40-6.3 requires BLS ambulances to be staffed with a minimum of two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) when an ambulance is in-service; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the strain the COVID-19 pandemic was expected to have on medical providers, including emergency medical service providers, the Department issued a waiver of the BLS crewmember requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:40-6.3 on March 13, 2020. The waiver permitted BLS licensed providers to utilize one certified EMT and one first responder as minimum staffing for in-service BLS ambulances provided that (1) both individuals were at least 18 years of age and rendered care within their respective scopes of practice; (2) the first responder was certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the Professional Rescuer level; and (3) the EMT provided the primary patient care; and

**WHEREAS**, P.L. 2021, c.477 was enacted on January 18, 2022, which extended portions of the Department's COVID-19 related BLS rule waivers and, as a result, superseded the Department's waivers. Specifically, the legislation relaxed the crewmember requirements for non-911 BLS ambulance transports through January 1, 2023 by permitting the non-emergent ambulances to be staffed with one EMT and one first responder so long as the EMT was present at all times in the patient compartment of the vehicle with the patient; each crewmember was at least 18 years of age; and the first responder was 1) certified to administer CPR; (2) able to operate a basic life support vehicle; and (3) completed a training program that was approved by the BLS agency medical director that included, at a minimum: safe vehicle operations, patient lifting and moving, safe use of patient restraints, basic first aid, and documentation.

**WHEREAS**, P.L. 2021, c.477 defines "first responder" as a police officer, firefighter, or other person who has been trained to provide emergency medical first response services in a program recognized by the Commissioner of Health; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 22, 2022, Governor Murphy signed Assembly Bill No. 4918 into law as P.L. 2022, c.132, which amended P.L. 2021, c.477 by extending the reduced crewmember

configuration for non-emergent BLS transports and the requirements and restrictions for the reduced crewmember configuration until January 1, 2024.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUDITH PERSICHILLI**, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health, pursuant to the powers afforded to me hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** the following:

1. For purposes of implementing P.L. 2021, c.477, as amended by P.L. 2022, c.132, the Department of Health is recognizing the following first responder training programs and certifications:
  - a. The National Registry Emergency Medical Responder certification;
  - b. American Red Cross (ARC) Emergency Medical Responder training program and certification;
  - c. National Safety Council (NSC) Emergency Medical Responder training program and certification; and
  - d. American Safety & Health Institute (ASHI) Emergency Medical Responder training program and certification.
2. To serve as a first responder crewmember on a non-911 BLS ambulance under P.L. 2021, c.477, as amended by P.L. 2022, c.132, the first responder must have successfully completed a first responder training program and received a certification set forth in paragraph 1 above.
3. BLS licensed agencies utilizing the reduced crewmember configuration authorized by P.L. 2021, c.477, as amended by P.L. 2022, c.132, must maintain documentation of each first responder's current certification recognized under paragraph 1 above in the individual's personnel file and ensure that its patient records properly document the crewmembers who provided the non-911 transports.
4. Consistent with N.J.A.C. 8:40-4.1(e), each first responder staffing a non-emergent BLS ambulance shall possess and shall make available to Department staff, upon demand, their first responder certification, driver's license and CPR card.
5. This revised Executive Directive supersedes Executive Directive 23-001 that was issued on January 23, 2023.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that this Executive Directive shall become effective April 3, 2023, and shall terminate on January 1, 2024, unless modified, rescinded, or superseded by statute.

Dated: February 2, 2023



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Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.  
Commissioner