



Department of
Public Safety



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Thomas J. Stickrath, Director
Robert L. Wagoner, Executive Director

TO: EMS Agencies, EMS Medical Directors, and Regional Physician Advisory Board

FROM: Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS
Robert L. Wagoner, Executive Director

DATE: December 22, 2021

RE: Temporary EMS Minimum Staffing In Effect During the Current COVID-19 Surge

Ambulance staffing requirements are set forth in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 4765.43. If an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency is unable, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, to maintain this staffing requirement, the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board), pursuant to ORC 4765.48, has the authority to decide if the staffing violation merits filing a complaint against the EMS organization. Therefore, the EMFTS Board has the authority to review staffing violations, but it also has the authority to decline to file a complaint. As a result, the law affords EMS agencies, with appropriate oversight from the EMFTS Board, to take action as necessary to provide EMS services below minimum staffing levels if necessary under the circumstances.

The Department of Public Safety, division of EMS recommends that EMS agencies exhaust all efforts with current staffing, mutual aid agreements, and consultation with the local county Emergency Management Agency before falling below minimum staffing. Furthermore, at least one certified EMT, advanced EMT, or paramedic should be monitoring the patient during transport. The driver should also be a person who has completed training on the operation of an emergency vehicle. The EMS agency's medical director should be notified immediately if standard transport staffing is violated. Ohio EMS should also be notified immediately in order to help assess the scope of any staffing shortages statewide.

EMS professionals on the EMFTS Board are well aware of the potential strain the current COVID-19 surge is having on EMS agencies and will utilize appropriate discretion to provide relief when reviewing any reported ambulance minimum staffing issues. In order to request minimum staffing for your agency, the [Minimum Staffing Report Form](#) must be completed and submitted to the division of EMS for consideration. If approved, staffing relief for the agency will be valid for no more than thirty (30) days from the date of submission. Additional relief for minimum staffing will be considered upon submission of an additional Minimum Staffing Report Form.

Thank you for your understanding and continued service to Ohio's EMS and medical transportation system as we continue to meet the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.