

## **National EMS Advisory Council**

### **Position Statement**

Adopted September 30, 2009

The National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) asserts that the personal safety of the EMS responders in the United States is paramount in a pandemic flu outbreak. While guidelines have been developed and Federal funding established, there is widespread variation in EMS personnel awareness and compliance. There is concern that EMS personnel underestimate the severity and imminent impact on the EMS workforce. Social networking systems influence the EMS provider with information from unsubstantiated and often misleading sources. NEMSAC asserts the following key guiding principles promote the safety of EMS personnel in response to a pandemic flu outbreak:

- Promote proper handwashing as the fundamental practice of preventing the spread of disease.
- Promote vaccination of EMS providers for both seasonal and H1N1 influenza.
- Promote flu.gov as a credible source of current information regarding pandemic flu with emphasis on the following practices:
  - Encourage and promote the proper use of basic personal protective equipment.
  - Encourage the education of family members of EMS providers.
  - Encourage EMS providers to consult their local medical director in adopting the practice and procedures in patient care.
- Ensure that dissemination of credible information to providers and the public through EMS agencies, organizations, associations, and EMS media is consistent with information from CDC, state and local public health.