



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

## **EMS Information Bulletin - # 073**

**DATE:** October 21, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Paramedic Liability Protection  
**TO:** Regional EMS Directors  
**FROM:** Bureau of Emergency Medical Services  
PA Department of Health  
(717) 787-8740

As we prepare for paramedics to be used in mass vaccine settings, there has been questions concerning the liability protection for paramedics. This was researched by the Department of Health (DOH) Legal Department and I have been provided the following response.

- *Paramedics and ambulance service medical directors as well as other health care providers participating in the DOH Vaccine Administration Program are considered Commonwealth employees acting on behalf of DOH and, thus have a right to legal representation by the Commonwealth. Further, while the Commonwealth has waived sovereign immunity for certain tort claims grounded in negligence, health care providers including paramedics and ambulance service medical directors participating in the DOH Vaccine Administration Program will, never less, be immune from liability attributable to the work they perform for DOH in this program (except for claims of willful misconduct) under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, 42 United States Code 247d-6b.*

It is hopeful that this addresses any questions. Please do not hesitate to contact the Bureau of EMS at 717-787-8740 if you have further questions.