

**Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services Weekly COVID Webex Update
for EMS Agency Leadership
Wednesday 4/15/20, 3:02 PM to 4:04 PM
Unofficial Notes**

Panelists:

Ryan Greenberg, Director, BEMS&TS ryan.greenberg@health.ny.gov
Jean Taylor, Deputy Chief, Education Branch
John MacMillan, Unit Chief, Investigations Branch john.macmillan@health.ny.gov
Peter Brodie, Deputy Chief, Informatics peter.brodie@health.ny.gov
Daniel Clayton, Section Chief, Operations Branch daniel.clayton@health.ny.gov
Genna VanCort, Unit Chief, Investigations Branch
Kathy Mix, District Chief/Investigator, Syracuse, Central Region
Josef Schenker, MD, Chairman, NYC Regional Medical Advisory Committee

Ryan Greenberg (from Javits Center)

- Monitoring NYC Region as that is where majority cases. Monitoring the rest of the state for hospital occupancy, call types and testing centers.
- National Ambulance Contract is servicing DOH Metropolitan Region supporting 911 system & hospitals to reallocate patients to facilities such as Javits Center & other hospitals.
- COVID presentations result in tremendous number of cardiac arrests vs. a year back.
- PPE availability is a lot less on issue count. Reach out to BEMS&TS District Chief and EMS County Coordinator if PPE needed. Questions will be asked about call volume & burn rate over a time period such as past week or 2. Agencies have requested 1,000 N95s but their yearly call volume was 500.
- Question about patient movements and answer was that they have been from all over the metro region including Long Island and north to Westchester and the Hudson Valley. Mention was made of bed matching, short trips vs more complex and hospitals offloading vent beds.
- Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) are a primary point of interaction.
- Recent guidance to fire department was issued and is to be on website.
- Question about quarantine and answer was that Policy Statement is on website. It talks of being fever free & return to work guidance.
- Question about Crisis Standards of Care and Community Paramedicine and answer was that they are working on guidance.
- They are trying to move all on-line forms to forms page.
- Question about Treat-in-Place and answer was that they are working on guidance.
- Question about availability of "leave behind notice" (*Informational Handout for Patients Not Transported by EMS*) in other languages and answer was that it is being translated into 7 other languages.
- Question about signatures on *Informational Handout for Patients Not Transported by EMS* and answer was to consult EMS agency's legal counsel. There is actually no need for patient to sign. Patient can sign and crew can take picture with secure device.
- Question about PCR/ePCR signatures and answer was that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) just issued guidance advising if patient unable to sign can have verbal consent and suitable witness and/or crew co-sign. Consult EMS agency's legal counsel.
- Reduce number of responders on scene whenever possible to conserve PPE and provider for responder safety. Restrict number of personnel not needed for patient care such as chief/supervisor, police and firefighters. Many calls need only ambulance crew and not 7, 8 or 9 personnel.
- Screen patients initially from 6 feet away.
- Question about CME program during a 4 year certification and answer was that it is OK.
- Question about certification extensions and reinstatements receiving a new card and answer was that it will take time. Confirmation letter will go out first. It make take 2 to 3 weeks to get letter out. Card will follow at a later date. People can confirm certification through NYS Health Commerce System - Regional EMS Program Agencies and many EMS agencies have access.
- Question about sterilizing masks and answer was that have heard of FDA looking in to issue. There is nothing specific from state.
- Question about ET3 and answer was that SEMAC and SEMSCO are working on guidance.

- Computer Based Testing sites are up. Go to PSI website for information.
- EMT-CC to EMT-P Bridge participants who completed course can go for Computer Based Testing. Call PSI or Northwell Health. There are about 90 people involved. PSI will send notice if they have person's e-mail address
- Question about deployment requests for downstate and answer was that they are working on a plan. They have done polling & surveys. Mention was made of a financial component and it depends on how long & if its inter region. Some deployments have financial coverage and some no.
- Question about priority COVID-19 testing for 1st responders and answer was that if person symptomatic they should be able to be to find testing within a couple of hours. It is a regional issue and more testing is becoming available.
- Guidance on CPR in approval process and there will be information next week.
- Question about KN95 respirator mask vs. N95 respirator mask and answer was that they are of different designs and BEMTS&TS had no answer.
- Question about having an expired card and an extension letter and answer was that person is able to practice.
- Question about decon and best way to do and answer was that there are no specific requirements other than what was already put out there.
- BLS Statewide Protocol Update needs to be done by those receiving certification reinstatements.

Jean Taylor

Reinstatement of expired certifications:

- If expired 1/1/19 to 8/31/19 - person must apply through web site. A provisional certification will be issued at last certification level which is good through 12/31/20. [Apply at: <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pubpal/builder/survey/expired-verification>]
- If expired 1/1/15 to 12/31/18 - person must apply through web site. A provisional certification will be issued at EMT level (or CFR if person was last a CFR) which is good through 12/31/20. [Apply at: <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pubpal/builder/survey/expired-verification>]
- If expired before 2015 - person would have to take a regular refresher to regain their certification. DOH is looking at allowing challenge refresher.
- Over 2,000 applications have been received. Apply only once. Be patient as it can take 48 hours to a week to get person in system.

Other Issues:

- Question: Is person with provisional certification eligible for CME program. Answer: If person is active and with an agency in program they would be eligible. They would need to get signed off on practical exam sheets. The 9 month rule is being waived.
- Question: If person is in EMT-P class can they continue on-line and what about reducing hours. Answer: DOH is working with sponsors. Issues are area specific. They hope things level off by August.
- Question: EMT did practical skills exam but has not gotten notice from PSI about scheduling computer based test. Answer: Instructor (Course Sponsor) needs to submit end of course paperwork 10 days before end of course. After the course end date DOH can then sent list to PSI and PSI can then notify students of eligibility to schedule computer based test. PSI send notice to student's e-mail address in course paperwork. If e-mail address is missing or no longer current the notice from PSI will be delayed.

Peter Brodie

- Bureau is monitoring data flow from across the state.
- Looking at cardiac arrests in NYC and upstate.
- Call volume is up in NYC but there are slowdowns elsewhere in NYS.
- Have been participating in 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) conference calls.
- ePCR Schematron revision was implemented to make things easier and more efficient. If an EMS agency is having an ePCR issue related to data entry or submission report it to BEMS&TS at: <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pubpal/builder/survey/epcr-schematron-implementation-i>

John MacMillan

- Vital Signs Academy is operational and is offering a good selection of classes.
- Calendar is at <https://vitalsignsacademy.com/calendar/>

- EMS Response to the COVID Patient with Mike McEvoy is being offered Monday 4/20/20 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.
- Other presentations are listed for April and May
- Presentations will be recorded.
- BEMS&TS Course Sponsor Webex calls covering education and certification are held on Thursday afternoons starting at 3:00 PM. If not getting a notice send an e-mail to MacMillan.

Josef Schenker, MD,

He is an Emergency Physician at NYP Brooklyn and Medical Director for SenorCare EMS.

Dr. Schenker discussed the high cardiac arrest rate seen in COVID-19 patients:

- While they may look OK their O2 saturation may be in the 80s.
- They have no reserve capacity and their saturation drops and they code.
- Discussed use of alternative airways and compression only CPR to make resuscitation safer for providers.
- Discussed early intubation, high flow nasal cannula, non-rebreather with mask over it and CPAP.
- Capnography readings more suggestive of metabolism vs, ventilation status. Need to watch for a while.
- Cough does not go away just because infection is gone, lungs have to heal. Chest x-rays look significantly worse than clinical picture.
- Exertion testing by walking a few steps in place may result in O2 saturation dropping from 93 or 94 to mid-80s almost instantly. Do not encourage patient to walk around. Bring stretcher to patient.

Daniel Clayton

- If agencies encounter problems with Department of Motor Vehicles over ambulance registration process please send him an e-mail.
- Mobilization requests were sent out in the morning.

xx

From notice passed on from a county health department:

- Mobilization request 41420A was sent out for 10 Critical Care Transport-ALS Ground Ambulances for deployment to NYC and surrounding areas from 4/16/20 to 4/23/20. This is to assist with inter-facility transfer of ICU patients in coordination with the NYS Hospital Capacity Coordination Center (HCCC).
- Mobilization request 41420B was sent out for 50 EMT-Ps for deployment at Javits Alternative Care Facility from 4/19/20 to 4/25/20 to assist with patient care and treatment.

Agencies and personnel who responded to these requests will be individually contacted by the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services to coordinate the deployment.