



FDNY

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Dear fellow EMS professionals,

EMS is on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing prehospital care for our city's critically ill patients and rapidly filling our hospitals to capacity. We cannot shelter in place with our loved ones or remain 6 feet away from our patients. EMS professionals put themselves at risk every single shift, and then worry about exposing their families when they go home.

Facing enormous challenges, the FDNY reached out to our Voluntary Hospital partners and you responded with courage, resolve and exemplary professionalism. With little notice you provided a number of enhancement tours to help stem the tide, continuing to run them through the escalation, peak and subsequent reduction in volume. And you did so while helping to manage the same issues at your hospitals.

The COVID-19 pandemic is unlike anything we've seen, with record call volume and an astounding number of cardiac arrests. Through it all, we were able to count on your obligation to the system, strengthening the bonds of our partnership to meet the needs of the communities we serve. As we cautiously transition to the downslope of this crisis, we will de-escalate by incrementally repealing COVID-19 Medical Affairs Directives and operational orders. Below is a summary of changes you can expect:

- De-escalate of Voluntary enhancement tours beginning this past weekend
- NAC units now have CAD and GPS capability and are in the mix as ALS and BLS
- NAC units will be deployed in areas of high volume and high response times
- NAC unit deployment will be limited in areas serviced by Voluntary units
- City requested some NAC units for 30 more days, awaiting approval
- The following changes take effect on Friday 4/24/20:
 - 10-minute rule reinstated
 - Hospitals return to pre-COVID redirection thresholds
 - CFR return to normal response matrix
 - Return to full required EPCR documentation
 - Rescind EMS Viral Pandemic Triage Protocol (10-95C)

In closing, we give you our sincere thanks. We pledge to continue supporting and strengthening this long-lasting partnership, knowing that you'll continue to give NYC your best.

Respectfully,

Fire Department, City of New York

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