

# Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services Weekly COVID Webex Update for EMS Agency Leadership

Wednesday 4/29/20, 3:00 PM to 3:36 PM

## Unofficial Notes

446 on call

### **NYS DOH BEMS&TS Panelists:**

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Lynn Farruggia, Section Chief, Administration

Michael Bagozzi, Deputy Chief, Syracuse, Central Region

Valerie Ozga, Program Manager, Vital Signs [valerie.ozga@health.ny.gov](mailto:valerie.ozga@health.ny.gov)

Edward Mager, Deputy Chief, Buffalo, Western Region

Steven Dziura, Deputy Director, BEMS&TS [steven.dziura@health.ny.gov](mailto:steven.dziura@health.ny.gov)

### **Ryan Greenberg**

- EMS Week activities have been postponed. Bureau is asking for ideas for EMS Week. Use the BEMS&TS Facebook group or e-mail ideas.
- Providers are looking for official documents on certification extensions and reinstatements. Bureau is working on policies and guidance.
- NYS Health Commerce System (HCS) provides for EMS agency access to confirm provider certification information and do a printout. Regional Program Agencies can provide designated EMS agency officers access to the HCS. There was mention by panelist that HCS only shows Good for certification and a comment that the Bureau will try to have data field added for expiration date. There was another comment from a panelist that clicking on provider's last name opens a hyperlink to show expiration date and level of care.
- If a provider is not a member of an EMS agency they can contact the Bureau for a confirmation notice. The form to be submitted is at:  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/pdf/certification\\_verification.pdf](https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/pdf/certification_verification.pdf)
- Program agencies are also passing along guidance.
- State has started COVID-19 testing. 2,000 were tested in NYC on Monday 4/27/20 including 1<sup>st</sup> Responders & FDNY.\* It is run through the Governor's office. There will be more information next week. There will be sites around the state. These testing sites will not be publically announced.
- PSI company's Computer Based Testing sites are open but students should call ahead to verify their appointments for testing are confirmed and the site is open.
- People asking how to become certified. Course Sponsors can start with on-line sessions and have different plans for didactic and clinical time. Classes that start on-line in May can convert to in-person classes in June or July as appropriate.
- PPE – have not heard much about problems obtaining supplies. If agencies are unable to get PPE on their own they should contact their county Emergency Management office and/or BEMS&TS District Chiefs.
- Speaking to providers in NYC area and from all over NY and the rest of country.
- Has not seen family in a month.
- Providers need to take care of themselves in addition to their patients. Bureau is working on getting mental health information out to agencies. Please share useful info with the state including the small stuff. Bureau may have something next week.
- Let Bureau know if these weekly calls are helpful.
- Education calls will continue on Thursday.

### **Jean Taylor**

- Reinstated certifications for those providers who expired 1/1/15 through 8/31/19 and applied for reinstatement are good through 12/31/20 and not a whole year.

**John MacMillan**

- There is no ability right now to print certification cards as evidence of reciprocity but an e-mail can be sent out to provider to verify that their reciprocity has been approved.

**Valerie Ozga**

- Vital Signs Academy continues to go forward with on-line educational offerings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.
- Wednesday evening offerings are expected to begin next week.
- There is a possibility of webinars during the day.

**Daniel Clayton**

- Agencies having issues with NYS Department of Motor Vehicles concerning registering of new vehicles should e-mail him describing problem and include make, model and VIN of vehicle involved
- DMV may take 14 calendar days to process new ambulance registration.
- If there are other DMV questions also e-mail him.

**Steven Dziura**

- Dealing with COVID & non-COVID worlds.
- Those providers needing verification of their certification should reach out to their Regional Program Agencies.
- Health care system will look different on other side of this.
- Now is the time for reinvention.

\*Ed Note: News media reported on 4/29/20 that after testing 1,000 each from FDNY & NYPD on Monday 4/27/20 the state found positive coronavirus antibody rates of 17.1% and 10.5% respectively. Other reports indicate about 18% of downstate residents and nearly 25% of those tested in NYC had antibodies. However, definitive comparisons of antibody rates for groups may not be valid because of a number of variables including but not limited to differences in types of antibody testing and false positive/negative rates.