

NYS DOH Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services
Weekly COVID-19 Webex Update for EMS Agency Leadership
Wednesday 5/13/20, 3:00 PM to 3:39 PM

Unofficial Notes

NYS DOH BEMS&TS Panelists:

Ryan Greenberg, Director, Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services
Jean Taylor, Deputy Chief, Education Branch
Peter Brodie, Deputy Chief, Informatics
Daniel Clayton, Section Chief, Operations Branch
Valerie Ozga, Program Manager, Vital Signs
Edward Mager, Deputy Chief, Buffalo, Western Region
Richard Robinson, Deputy Chief, New York City, Metropolitan Region
Michael Bagozzi, Deputy Chief, Syracuse, Central Region
Elizabeth Donnelly, Unit Chief, Education Branch
John MacMillan, Unit Chief, Investigations Branch

Ryan Greenberg ryan.greenberg@health.ny.gov

- Putting together additional resource guides on mental health and keeping self in good shape.
- Question about agency SOP on mental health. Answer was that Ryan did not know of any but if anyone did to advise the Bureau.
- Notify BEMS&TS about problems with PSI's Computer Based Testing even if resolved. Do assume Bureau knew or knows about a problem.
- 2019 Statewide BLS Protocol Update is still on-line and available for reinstated EMS providers to access.
- Vital Signs Conference on last weekend of October is still on, building program and educators who will be speaking. Will provide updates.
- Working on testing for COVID-19 and antibodies. Have been monitoring and will get information out. It is a top priority and they are working on dynamics and how to scale it out to the state. Mention was made of testing of 2,000 FDNY and NYPD personnel 2 weeks ago.
- Questions about EMS providers doing testing or working in test centers. Making progress. There is an Executive Order in place that could allow for this and looking at who and where EMS providers could work and training needed.
- Questions about EMS courses, courses ending, testing, etc. should be sent to Jean Taylor.
- If there are problems with DMV about registering emergency vehicles send e-mail to Dan Clayton.
- Question about state opening, what does it look like and time frame. Bureau does not have all answers. Check DOH web site and also Governor's page at <https://forward.ny.gov/> There is a dashboard with [7 metrics](#) that must be met for a region to reopen. The state is divided into [10 economic regions](#).
- EMS week is next week. Many regions have elected to postpone activities. We should still recognize staff members and EMS providers in any way possible. This could be through Facebook pages or newspaper ads. Share ideas on the BEMS&TS Facebook group.
- BEMS&TS will be sending out to agency leaders and Regional EMS Councils a form that an EMS leader or EMS Coordinator can use to nominate a unit, individual, instructor, etc. for recognition for outstanding work. A few lines of description of the outstanding work needs to be included. One submission per agency and nominee should be in good standing with the Bureau. Recognition may include a personal phone call or something on Bureau's Facebook page.
- Hospitals are being told they must have at least 90 days of PPE stockpiled based on facility burn rate. Question was raised if this also applies to EMS and answer was that Bureau is finding out if this also applies to EMS and if so what are the issues. At this time there is no PPE stockpile requirement for EMS agencies.
- Question about swabbing & testing and is DOH tracking EMS providers testing positive for COVID-19 or symptomatic and possibly infected. Answer was that DOH is not doing it but may see it coming down the pipeline.

- Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome cases are being monitored. There are about 100 cases in NYS. Information for will be sent out as it comes forward. There may be an upcoming webinar and information on it will be sent out when confirmed.
- Next week's Webex Update for EMS Agency Leadership will be at the same time.

Elizabeth Donnelly elizabeth.donnelly@health.ny.gov

- Was able to get into the office this week after working from home and being deployed.
- Starting to catch up and is working first on new Certified Instructor Coordinator (CIC) and Certified Lab Instructor (CLI) applications. Sending out e-mails as notification of certifications. Paper certificates will be sent out later.
- Renewals for existing CICs and CLI are complicated by the 1 year extension granted. Have do some test entries and work with IT department to ensure extra year is not lost in handling the renewal. Hope to have fix in a few days.

Daniel Clayton daniel.clayton@health.ny.gov

- After call today will send out to Regional EMS Program Agencies and County EMS Coordinators copy of [Guidance for Conducting Virtual Meetings of Members of New York Not-for-Profit Corporations](#) issued by NYS Attorney General's Charities Bureau. This guidance applies to 501(c)(3) organizations such as independent volunteer ambulance agencies and volunteer fire departments.
- Questions are being received about CME refresher program requirement for participating BLSFR agency to have a response vehicle. The BEMS&TS is working on a form for affirmation of compliance with law and regulations.
- Keep mental health in mind. BEMS&TS will send out information on programs and resources.
- Question about blood glucometry license renewals and narcotics license renewals. Answer was that Ryan Greenberg and Steven Dziura are working with Wadsworth and Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement about extending licenses. If there are problems e-mail Daniel Clayton or opsems@health.ny.gov

John MacMillan john.macmillan@health.ny.gov

- Question about how to access archived webinar presentations from Vital Signs Academy. Answer was that they will be on the Learning Management System (LMS) the same as the BLS protocol update. He is talking to the operator about how to update the last 3 week's presentations.

Jean Taylor jean.taylor@health.ny.gov

- BEMS&TS is aware that there has been trouble over last 2 weeks for some people getting into PSI sites for Computer Based Testing exams or sites that were closed. PSI has had problems keeping track of sites that are open and closed. Bureau believes that it is pretty much solved. Be patient. BEMS&TS is not ignoring issue and PSI has been responsive in working on problem.
- Exam results have been uploaded to the Health Commerce System. Information on certifications can be downloaded to verify certification. Copy can be given to provider to carry with them.
- Question about current recommendations for live training. Answer is that it depends on the capabilities of individual Course Sponsors. EMS agencies can do in-house training within social distancing guidelines. Check with local Course Sponsors to see what is available to help and for innovations.
- Question about CIC candidate trying to complete internship and answer was it will be discussed on tomorrow's call for Course Sponsors.

Peter Brodie peter.brodie@health.ny.gov

- Making progress with ESO ePCR software data submission issue.
- Have identified an issue with ZOLL software as well.
- Otherwise, data is flowing smoothly and system operating at optimum now.

Valerie Ozga valerie.ozga@health.ny.gov

- Vital Signs Academy has been holding on-line seminars for over a month.
- Tonight's presentation is *Seizures 101-What's New* with Tim Redding.
- Issuance of attendance certificates for the CMEs is being worked on. Its taking longer than expected. Please be patient.
- Looking for more presenters. Contact Valerie Ozga or John MacMillan who will review presentation and reply. Schedule is into July.
- Web site is at www.vitalsignsacademy.com

Michael Bagozzi michael.bagozzi@health.ny.gov

- Question about monitoring those providers tested. Answer was that a county in Region is keeping a separate tracking system for EMS providers.

Richard Robinson richard.robinson@health.ny.gov

- Calling in from Fort Totten, Queens.
- National Ambulance Contract (NAC) units' call volume has somewhat stabilized.
- Working on the final 2 weeks of the FEMA contract.