



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

COVID-19 Response EMS Conference Call
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
2:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Introduction

Kathy Wahl, BS, MSN, RN
Director, Division of EMS and Trauma

- Kathy Wahl welcomed everyone to the call.
- With sadness, Kathy reported a recent loss in the EMS community from Region 3. Penny Shook passed away last week from non COVID-19 causes. According to her overview of service:
 - *Penny Shook graduated from St. Charles High School in 1965 with an interest in medicine. In the mid to late 60s, she worked with the American Red Cross and became an Ambulance Attendant in 1969. This time frame is considered the birth of modern EMS and Penny was at its forefront. Penny worked in EMS as an EMT, Paramedic and Emergency Medical Dispatcher throughout the 70s, 80s, 90s and the 2000s. She also assisted with NREMT Advanced Psychomotor Exams for many years. Penny was involved in EMS for over 50 years, a rare accomplishment.*
- Next week is EMS Week. There is no call next week, but something will be put in the Wednesday Update. EMS Week's theme for this year is "EMS Strong. Ready Today. Preparing for Tomorrow." Kathy discussed this, saying she doesn't think as ready as we have all been, that we couldn't have prepared for what has happened with COVID-19. She said she is amazed at the resilience of the EMS force and how quickly they have adapted. She discussed exercises and all the different kind of things that have happened during this pandemic, from weather to lower calls and scarce resources. Kathy went over ways EMS is helping with new things during the pandemic. Kathy said both she and the EMS staff are so proud to be on this team.

2. Testing Types and Uses

Marty Soehnlén, Ph.D., MPH, CLD (ABB)
Bureau of Laboratories

- Kathy introduced Dr. Soehnlén to the group.
- Dr. Soehnlén discussed what kinds of test are out there and what may be a good test or bad, and to understand what is happening and why.

- Two different categories of testing:
 - Diagnostic
 - Real time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
 - Molecular tests
 - Collect sample, extract nucleic acids (RNA and DNA), and then turn virus RNA back into a CDNA to work with it further in a more stable state. This is like a DNA copy machine.
 - Pros
 - Directly detecting the presence of pathogens.
 - Highly sensitive
 - Living material is not needed.
 - Cons
 - Unknown how long the genetic material remains in the host.
 - Positive result does not necessarily mean infectious.
 - Sensitivity and specificity vary by assay.
 - Can be expensive.
 - Turnaround time varies by instrument used.
 - Rapid detection viral systems
 - Abbott's ID Now™ is currently approved by the FDA for emergency use.
 - Results in 15 minutes.
 - Surveillance and Research Use Tests
 - These are the serology tests.
 - Based on immune system.
 - Innate – first line of defense.
 - Adaptive – B and T cells.
 - B cells produce the antibody.
 - Hopeful that these will create a long-term immunity.
 - Five different classes of antibodies:
 - A
 - Mucosal Immunity.
 - Respiratory pathogens enter here first.
 - D
 - Not normally associated with viral pathogens.
 - E
 - Not normally associated with viral pathogens.

- M
 - Part of the primary immune response.
 - Catches everything early on, eventually switches to G.
 - G
 - A neutralizing G means immunity.
 - It is unknown if this is happening. Scientists have differing opinions currently.
 - Important for vaccine development.
- Dr. Soehnen went discussed how the tests and antibodies work.
- Two different categories of serology tests:
 - Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (EIA/ELISA)
 - Dr. Soehnen briefly explained how it works.
 - These tend to be the more reliable serology tests and you can decide what part of the COVID virus you want to look at.
 - Rapid diagnostic test
 - The name is misleading, as it is not for diagnosis.
 - Lateral flow assays
 - This works the same way as a pregnancy strip test does.
 - These are quick, but not sensitive or specific.
 - These tests are not encouraged.
 - Pros
 - Determine exposure history.
 - Contributes to long term knowledge of the virus
 - Cons
 - We do not know if it is protective, how long the antibodies will last, or if it will prevent the virus from coming back.
 - Right now, it does not mean you're protected.
- Tests for patient care
 - Dr. Soehnen said only a diagnostically approved test should be used.
 - ID NOW
 - PCR
 - Serology can be used, but it should never be used as the sole basis of diagnosis right now. It can be useful for determining exposure.
 - Make sure you are using a "good" test.
 - FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)
 - Meets minimum criteria to be considered an "okay" test.
 - Pay attention to the sensitivity rating.

- FDA will tell you specifically who can run the test.
 - Waived: normal patient care setting.
 - ID NOW
 - Other tests must be performed in a laboratory.
 - CLIA waiver.
 - High complexity.
 - Moderate complexity.
- FDA is attempting to go after fraudulent test providers.
- Dr. Soehrlen referenced this site for test performance information:
 - <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/eua-authorized-serology-test-performance>
- Kathy reported that we are working on strategies to get first responders tested in Michigan.

3. Behavioral Health Resources

Samantha Mishra, DO, MPH

Bureau of EMS, Trauma & Preparedness

- Kathy introduced Dr. Mishra to the group. She has been working with the behavioral health team.
- Dr. Mishra spoke about the alarming increase in the rates of child abuse being seen throughout the world. Historically, educators have been the primary reporters and due to COVID, first warning signs may be going unnoticed. She said first responders may be the only group of people that have a chance to be in these children's homes, and this is an opportunity for heightened awareness and following reporting protocols when needed. Dr. Mishra and Terrie Godde are developing a webinar with subject matter experts to help increase your abilities and comfort to advocate for these children.
- Dr. Mishra provided resources that she has been working on with the behavioral health team. She said COVID is causing emotional impact in unique ways, and in ways we do not have experience with, as this is different and ongoing. You are not alone if you are struggling. She said now, more than ever, it is important to take time to look out for yourselves and each other.
- Dr. Mishra provided a list of resources and briefly went over them.
 - www.michigan.gov/staywell
 - www.michigan.gov/emscovid

4. Q&A

- A participant asked about self-isolation with IgM or IgG positive result. Dr. Soehrlen addressed. She would recommend following up with a PCR test to diagnose and self-isolate until the results come back. She also said that anyone in the state of Michigan in need of a PCR test is eligible to have that done at the Bureau of Laboratories at no charge in conjunction with collection by the healthcare provider. She said with IgG, she recommends a PCR, however there may be an interest in helping determine where exposure may have happened or if there is cross-reactivity. The local health department will assist with that.

- A participant asked Dr. Mishra to repeat the website mentioned above and if it could be provided in the Wednesday Update. Dr. Mishra gave the website and said yes, it can go in the Wednesday Update.

5. Licensing and Education Update

Sabrina Kerr, BA, MPA, EMS Section Manager
Terrie Godde, BS, CCP, EMS IC
Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness

- Sabrina Kerr reported Executive Order 2020-39 is extended through the end of May.
 - Agency staffing requirements reduced and able to downgrade.
 - Provider licenses set to expire in May have been extended six months.
 - Future updates will be in the Wednesday Update.
- Terrie Godde reported IC courses continue to be held virtually.
 - Terrie is working on being able to provide the IC exam virtually.
- The free monthly Wednesday Webinars continue. One is scheduled for tomorrow on pediatric assessment.
 - Archived webinars can be found [here](#).
- Terrie reported she meets with paramedic program directors weekly. This has been a huge benefit and they look to continue meeting after the COVID response is over.
- For initial education, courses are being held virtually. Lab and clinicals have been on hold. Terrie reported that Executive Order 2020-77, section 10i, states *“Workers necessary to train, credential, and license first responders (e.g., police officers, fire fighters, paramedics) and health-care workers, including certified nursing assistants, provided that as much instruction as possible is provided remotely.”* Terrie reminded everyone that clinicals and clinical assignments are an agreement between the education program and the clinical site.
- Terrie reported there are no psychomotor exams scheduled in the state, but we are working on plans to resume, following CDC guidelines.
- Pearson Vue testing centers are open for the cognitive exams. More information can be found at nremt.org.

6. Medical Director Update

William Fales, M.D., FACEP
State EMS & Trauma Medical Director

- Dr. Fales addressed some questions about the emergency protocols, as these expire after 60 days. Dr. Fales and Emily Bergquist agree that rather than making these automatic permanent protocols, they can stand as turnkey ready to go protocols for when needed. He spoke of the turning on and off the telemedicine protocol as an example. These protocols will still be adjusted as evidence requires.
- Dr. Fales spoke about PPE breeches shown in telehealth videos. Dr. Fales said data shows strict adherence to PPE protects the workforce.
- Dr. Fales spoke about hospital reengaging services that have been put on hold. This will likely increase EMS volume. He said this is a good time to be working with community groups to increase confidence between EMS, hospitals and patients. This can be done at the hospital, MCA and agency levels.

- Dr. Fales spoke about Pediatric Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (PIMS) and COVID-19 in children. This an atypical presentation with COVID. He said it is not well understood yet. There are features of the disease that are like Kawasaki's disease. He said EMS should be on guard for atypical presentation in children. Fever and abdominal pain symptoms may indicate further evaluation. It is possible more information will be available, as well as a speaker, for the next call.

7. Q&A

All

- There were no additional questions.
- Additional questions can be emailed to MDHHS-MichiganEMS@michigan.gov.
- Kathy thanked everyone for their participation.

8. Future Calls

Statewide EMS COVID-19 Call
May 26, 2020 at 2:00 pm

- Topic suggestions for items to address can be sent via email at MDHHS-MichiganEMS@michigan.gov.