

Wednesday Updates: Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Information for EMS

11/18/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- If you have been keeping track, there have been a few new [Emergency Protocols](#) that have been released over the last couple of weeks. Today, we released a new version of the previous telehealth protocol, a [COVID-19 Treat in Place](#) protocol. This protocol would allow for paramedics, after assessment and consultation with medical control, to leave patients at home (or a facility) instead of taking them to the emergency department. As of right now, there aren't very many MCAs that have moved forward with this protocol, please take a moment to review the protocol in its entirety. It is very different than what we expect when responding to calls for service, so it may take some practice to work through the process. Please know that if you are in a situation where staff/family/patient is not receptive to staying home, even after consulting with a physician, that it is best for you to transport the patient. It is not EMS's role to be in the middle of a disagreement between facilities. Thanks!
- **COVID-19 Update Webinar**
On Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 1300, the EMS Office will be hosting a live webinar to provide a summary and training on the response to COVID-19 so far. Please go to MI TRAIN to register for the event [here](#). If you need to search for it, please use course ID 1094771. The COVID-19 progression, infection control, COVID-19 plans, and immunization will all be covered. If you can't attend at that time, it will be available as a recording around a week after the event.
- **Reminder: Prevent Flu**



PREVENT FLU

The flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from getting sick with the flu. Flu vaccines are safe and are recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older every year, with rare exceptions. Vaccination has shown to have many benefits including reducing the risk of flu illnesses, hospitalizations, and even death. Find out more about how to prevent flu by clicking the link below.

[PREVENT FLU](#)

- **Michigan Stay Well Program**
[Need someone to talk to? Free emotional support counseling is available.](#)

When it comes to mental health impacts, the COVID-19 disaster has hit Americans hard. Studies show large increases in the amount of pandemic-related emotional distress: anxiety, depression, grief, fear, and relentless uncertainty about the future.

A behavioral health task force at the State of Michigan has provided a measure of relief by standing up the Michigan Stay Well counseling line. The line is staffed around the clock with trained crisis counselors who help residents process their feelings. Along with providing psychoeducational and emotional support, Stay Well counselors can connect residents to mental health resources in their communities or online—including group counseling sessions to ease the loneliness of isolation and allow residents to share their experiences.

To reach the counseling line, dial the state’s COVID-19 information hotline (1-888-535-3136) and press “8.” Remain on the line until you hear the prompt to speak with a Stay Well counselor. This service is free, confidential, and available 24/7, year-round.

The Stay Well team hopes emergency response agencies and employees will spread the word about this important counseling service! The program is funded by a grant from FEMA and SAMHSA. For more guidance on coping with pandemic-related distress, visit www.Michigan.gov/StayWell.



11/12/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- With the increasing cases and strains on staffing across the state, an edited version of the COVID-19 Staffing protocol is being distributed to MCAs. It is also posted at www.michigan.gov/emscovid. Before utilizing this protocol be sure to verify that your MCA has adopted it and that your agency has given the proper notifications for the changes in staffing.

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- **Pregnant Women and COVID-19: Updates from the CDC**

Findings from two recently released CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWRs) stress the importance of counseling pregnant women about their risk for severe COVID-19 illness and potential risk for preterm birth. The findings and recommendations are summarized below:

Increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness compared to non-pregnant women

- Markers for severe illness: ICU admission, invasive ventilation, ECMO and/or death
- Highest risk for severe outcomes in oldest age group of pregnant women (35-44)

Increased risk of having preterm infant (born before 37 weeks)

- May lead to serious health problems for the infant
- Infants born to mothers with COVID-19 during pregnancy were more likely to test positive if the mother had a positive COVID-19 result within 1 week of birth

Pregnant women and their families should follow mitigation and prevention measures to reduce the risk of becoming ill with COVID-19. Counsel these families to:

- Attend healthcare appointments before and after pregnancy
- Obtain all recommended vaccines
- Seek emergency care if needed

CDC guidance and recommendations for [Pregnancy, Breastfeeding, and Caring for Newborn](#)

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11/6/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- **Executive Orders, Directives, & MDHHS Epidemic Orders Quicksheet for EMS**
An updated Quicksheet has been released. Please see the PDF file below.
 - [EOs for EMS Quick Sheet with MDHHS Epidemic Orders Final.pdf](#)
- **Michigan Stay Well Program**
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10/29/2020

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An updated Quicksheet has been released. Please see the PDF file below.
 - [EOs for EMS Quick Sheet with MDHHS Epidemic Orders Final.pdf](#)
- **Hidden Consequences: How the COVID Pandemic is Impacting Children**
ASPR TRACIE Webinar Series -The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE), and [ASPR’s Pediatric Centers of Excellence](#), collaborated on a webinar series focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic may affect children.

The Effects of Secondary Disasters on Children: 10/29 1:00 – 2:00pm ET

The fourth and final webinar in this series will focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children with special healthcare needs. Panelists will discuss related programs, the impact of COVID-19 and social determinants on this population of children, behavioral health/ psychological effects, child neglect/abuse, and secondary disaster preparedness planning considerations. [Register today.](#)

- [aspr-tracie-hidden-consequences-children-and-covid-19-webinar-series-summary.pdf](#)
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10/21/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- **Decontamination During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
A question was raised about the types of decontamination for emergency vehicles during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the emergency protocol, [14-5](#), there is a small section about this, but there may be more specific policies with different agencies. There is also CDC guidance on the issue [here](#) (you need to scroll down to get to the disinfection part). The question posed was more specific however, asking about utilizing UV light for disinfection. There is some [scholarly information](#) about UV light disinfection for ambulances, but it is inconclusive on how effective it actually is for ambulances. Exposure time needed for disinfection with these lights is variable, and it doesn’t work

very well over longer distances. When it does work, it only works on flat, solid surfaces. It doesn't penetrate soft surfaces, and it can't go around corners. These are the reasons that the CDC (and our protocol, linked above) mention using approved cleaners and manually disinfecting the vehicle (while wearing PPE). Utilizing approved EPA disinfectants found on [List N Advanced Search Page: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#), is the safest way to know that your vehicle and equipment is safe for use, every time they are used. Feel free to look up the specific products you are utilizing at your agencies to verify that they are on List N.

- **Hidden Consequences: How the COVID Pandemic is Impacting Children**
ASPR TRACIE Webinar Series - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE), in collaboration with [ASPR's Pediatric Centers of Excellence](#), are collaborating on a webinar series focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic may affect children.

The Effects of Secondary Disasters on Children: 10/23 1:00 – 2:30pm ET

The third webinar in this series will focus on how secondary disasters may affect children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Panelists will discuss sheltering in place versus mass sheltering; family preparedness considerations; wildland fire preparedness and response; the potential impact associated with the 2020-2021 influenza season; planning for pediatric surge; multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C): epidemiology, clinical features, laboratory findings and outpatient approach; and pharmacy and supply chain considerations.

This webinar will take place on **Friday, October 23, 2020** from 1:00-2:30 PM ET. [Register today.](#)

- [aspr-tracie-hidden-consequences-children-and-covid-19-webinar-series-summary.pdf](#)

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10/15/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- **FEMA Accepts New Applications for COVID-19 Assistance to Firefighters Grant**
From ems.gov:

FEMA is providing an additional chance for volunteer and combination fire departments to apply for funding under this year's [Assistance to Firefighters COVID-19 Supplemental grant](#).

FEMA made \$100 million available in funding for personal protective equipment (PPE) and related supplies. This includes reimbursement for expenditures made since Jan. 1, 2020.

Volunteer and combination fire departments are eligible to apply in this round even if they had a successful application in the first round earlier this year. Departments that applied in the first round but were unsuccessful must reapply to be considered for funding in this round. Applications from the first round will not automatically carry over to this round for consideration.

FEMA will host live webinars on Tuesday, Oct. 13, and Thursday, Oct. 15, demonstrating the application process and walking through the questions. Access the [full training schedule and information on how to login to the webinars here](#).

FEMA will accept applications until 5 p.m. ET on Nov. 13. More information on eligibility requirements and how to apply is available on [the FEMA website](#).

- **N95 Decontamination – Free of Charge to EMS Agencies:**

As mentioned on the Statewide EMS call yesterday, [Battelle](#) is a critical care decontamination system for N95 masks that is available to all EMS agencies at no cost. Agencies must first enroll on their website and then will receive a 3 digit site code number that will be used to label your N95 masks in preparation for shipment. This service is offered in Detroit and they currently have an approximately 72 hours turnaround time. More information about this service and how to enroll is located on their website [here](#).

- **Vaccines During COVID** - Childhood vaccination coverage decreased during COVID-19 Pandemic

What can we do to help?

- Ask parents/guardian about their child's immunization/vaccination status.
 - Encourage them to call the child's doctor (or local health department) to schedule an immunization catch-up appointment.
 - Remind them that it is safe to bring their child into the doctor's office, and the best way to keep their child and family healthy is to keep scheduled check-ups and stay up-to-date on immunizations.
- Ask about flu shots
 - Remind patients and families that getting the flu shot this year is more important than ever before.
 - Flu shots are usually free! Call the doctor's office, walk-in clinic, or pharmacy ahead of time to check on availability.
- Families may not be aware of a federal program called [Vaccines for Children](#) that covers immunization for uninsured and under-insured children.
- Please visit www.michigan.gov/VaccinesDuringCovid for many resources from the MDHHS Immunizations Division. Posters, images, toolkits, social media graphics, community messaging and engagement.
- If you would like to learn more about advocating for vaccination catch-up, flu shots, or connecting with your local health department to support your community, please contact Dr. Mishra at MishraS@michigan.gov.



- **Michigan Stay Well Program**

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10/8/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- **MDHHS Emergency Order**
As mentioned on the Statewide EMS Conference Call yesterday, Robert Gordon, Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, issued the attached Gathering Prohibition and Mask Order on October 5th. This order requires individuals to wear masks for both indoor and outdoor gatherings and provides limitations on those gatherings. We will be getting additional clarification on the Governor's Executive Orders in the days to come and we will send out additional communication via email and post on our website at that time.
 - [MDHHS Emergency Order 10.5.2020.pdf](#)

- **Michigan Supreme Court Decision and EMS**
With the decision of the Michigan Supreme Court on Friday, October 2nd, we have received many questions about what it means for EMS. While all things aren't perfectly

clear, there are some things that we can answer. All protocols in place for COVID-19 have been approved by the QATF as evidence based care protocols and they will continue to be reviewed bi-monthly. Additionally, there have been epidemic orders put in place that cover many of the previous protections that were in place. If you would like to read them, you can find them [here](#). The pandemic is not over. The positive test results are increasing, as are hospitalizations around the State. The risk is not gone, and we encourage you to be safe. Please follow your protocols, wear your masks, on and off duty, social distance, and cleanse hands often with soap and water when available, or with hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol; we need to be more diligent about protecting ourselves so that we can stay safe. We are working to update our documents to cover the new orders. When they are completed, they will be posted at www.michigan.gov/EMSCOVID.

- **COVID-19 State of EMS**

We continue to monitor EMS data during the pandemic. This table compares data from this year to last year for the same time period. While we have seen normalization, we urge you to continue communicating with your communities about the importance of preventative medicine, immunizations, and calling 911 during a medical emergency. We will continue to monitor data throughout the COVID-19 response.

	March 24 – May 30 th Percent Change compared to 2019	June 1 st – August 31 st Percent Change compared to 2019
911 Transports	-8%	4%
Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests	43%	13%
Out of Hospital Deaths	79%	21%
STEMI Transports	-11%	1%
Stroke Transports	-12%	-3%

*Data based on licensed transporting EMS agencies reporting to MI EMSIS version 3.4.

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- **Phase 3 Provider Relief Funding:**

US Department of Health and Human Services Accepting Applications for Phase 3 Provider Relief Funding

Last week, HHS announced an additional \$20 billion in funding for providers on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic. Under this Phase 3 General Distribution allocation, providers that have already received Provider Relief Fund payments will be invited to apply for additional funding that considers financial losses and changes in operating expenses caused by the coronavirus.

For the full announcement and information about eligibility and how to apply, [click here](#).

- **Vaccines During COVID** - Childhood vaccination coverage decreased during COVID-19 Pandemic
- From CDC MMWR-Michigan https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6920e1.htm#F1_down
 - Vaccination status of milestone age cohorts of children at ages 1, 3, 5, 7, 16, 19, and 24 months of age were assessed. May 2016 compared to May 2020.
 - Vaccination coverage declined in all milestone age cohorts (except birth-dose hepatitis B – typically administered in hospital).
 - Children at 5 months of age: up-to-date status for all recommended vaccines fell from 2/3 (2016-2019) to just under 50% (2020).
 - Up-to-date series coverage for each age cohort was lower for Medicaid-enrolled children than for those not enrolled in Medicaid.
 - 7 month cohort: 34.6% of Medicaid-enrolled children were up-to-date compared to 55% of children the same age, not enrolled in Medicaid.
 - What can we do to help?
 - Ask parents/guardian about their child's **immunization/vaccination** status.
 - Encourage them to call the child's doctor (or local health department) to schedule an immunization catch-up appointment.
 - Remind them that it is safe to bring their child into the doctor's office, and the best way to keep their child and family healthy is to keep scheduled check-ups and stay up-to-date on immunizations.
 - Ask about **flu shots**
 - Remind patients and families that getting the flu shot this year is more important than ever before.
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10/1/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- **Back-to-School Resources for Families and Educators: From the Child Mind Institute**

- Going "back-to-school" looks different for everyone this year. A wonderful collection of resources for Families and Educators (including parents who have become the educator!) from the Child Mind Institute. Click [here](#) for numerous resources related to a wide variety of scenarios, challenges, and situations related to returning to school this year.
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9/24/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- **Hidden Consequences: How the COVID Pandemic is Impacting Children Series- Child Health and Wellness Webinar**
 - From ASPR TRACIE:

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center and Information Exchange (TRACIE), in collaboration with [ASPR's Pediatric Centers of Excellence](#), are collaborating on a webinar series focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic may affect children.
- Details and registration links compiled in this [PDF](#).
 - Child Health and Wellness
 - Child Emotional and Social Effects
 - The effects of Secondary Disasters on Children
 - Impact of COVID-19 on Children with Special Healthcare Needs
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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- There has been an update to one emergency protocol, [14.05](#). This is the PPE protocol and the changes are for the safety of personnel responding to scenes. Regarding PPE, all patients will be treated as suspected COVID-19, and respiratory precautions will be the same for everyone. This will allow for a simpler process of PPE selection and utilization. Please see the grid in section III for the summary of respiratory precautions depending on situation. That is where you will see the most changes. The entire protocol suite will be reviewed again in October to keep on the 60-day cycle of renewals.
- **Futures for Frontliners**
Press Release From Governor Whitmer's office:

Gov. Whitmer launches new, first in nation Futures for Frontliners program to offer essential, frontline workers a tuition-free path to community college

Education, labor, business, and workforce leaders join to urge Michigan's 625,000 COVID-19 essential workers to apply now for tuition-free college

LANSING – Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, along with leaders in education, business, labor and workforce development, today launched the nation's first program offering tuition-free college to an estimated 625,000 Michiganders who provided essential, frontline services during COVID-19 Stay Home, Stay Safe orders between April – June 2020.

Futures for Frontliners, inspired by the GI Bill which provided college degree to those serving their country in WWII, offers Michigan adults without college degrees or high school diplomas who provided essential services during the pandemic a tuition-free pathway to gaining the skills needed to obtain high-demand, high-wage careers. The funding is not only available to those in the medical field, but also essential workers in manufacturing, nursing homes, grocery stores, sanitation, delivery, retail and more.

“This initiative is Michigan's way of expressing gratitude to essential workers for protecting public health and keeping our state running,” Whitmer said. “Whether it was stocking shelves, delivering supplies, picking up trash, manufacturing PPE or providing medical care, you were there for us. Now this is your chance to pursue the degree or training you've been dreaming about to help you and your own family succeed.”

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

- Be a Michigan resident
- Have worked in an essential industry at least part-time for 11 of the 13 weeks between April 1 – June 30, 2020
- Have been required by their job to work outside the home at least some of the time between April 1 – June 30, 2020
- Not have previously earned an associate or bachelor's degree
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan
- Complete a Futures for Frontliners scholarship application by 11:59 p.m., Dec. 31, 2020

Frontline workers are encouraged to visit www.michigan.gov/Frontliners to explore career opportunities, a list of local community colleges and get started on their application – even if they don't already have a high school diploma.

The program is a \$24M investment funded by Governor's Education Emergency Relief (GEER) Fund – part of the CARES Act, and supports [the state's Sixty by 30 goal](#) announced at the Governor's first state of the state address to increase the number of working-age Michiganders completing an industry certificate, college degree or apprenticeship. A more educated workforce is essential to help businesses grow, make Michigan a more competitive state to attract jobs of the future and help families navigate a changing economy and increase income.

"The vast majority of good paying jobs continue to require at least some education beyond high school," said Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Director Jeff Donofrio. "Futures for Frontliners gives those who helped save lives and kept our communities operating during the height of COVID an opportunity to increase their skills and income and helps us close the state's skills gap. For Michigan's economy to recover and grow, it's critical we continue to provide expanded opportunities to all."

Advocates for additional career training say Futures for Frontliners also helps them offset training costs and provide another avenue for retention and long-term career growth.

"Michigan manufacturers have been on the front lines in defense against the COVID-19 threat, creating essential products necessary for daily life; from food and pharmaceuticals, to transportation and even toilet paper," said John Walsh, President and CEO of the Michigan Manufacturers Association. "The Futures for Frontliners program will recognize these truly-deserving heroes, investing in their personal future as well as the economic future of our state."

"As an employer of nearly 20,000 frontline associates here in Michigan and beyond, we are proud and thankful for each of our employees who stepped up to feed our customers and our communities during the pandemic," Rachel Hurst Corporate Affairs Manager for the Kroger Co. of Michigan said. "We're excited for them to have this hard-earned opportunity to continue their education with support from the Futures for Frontliners program which pairs well with our Feed Your Future program."

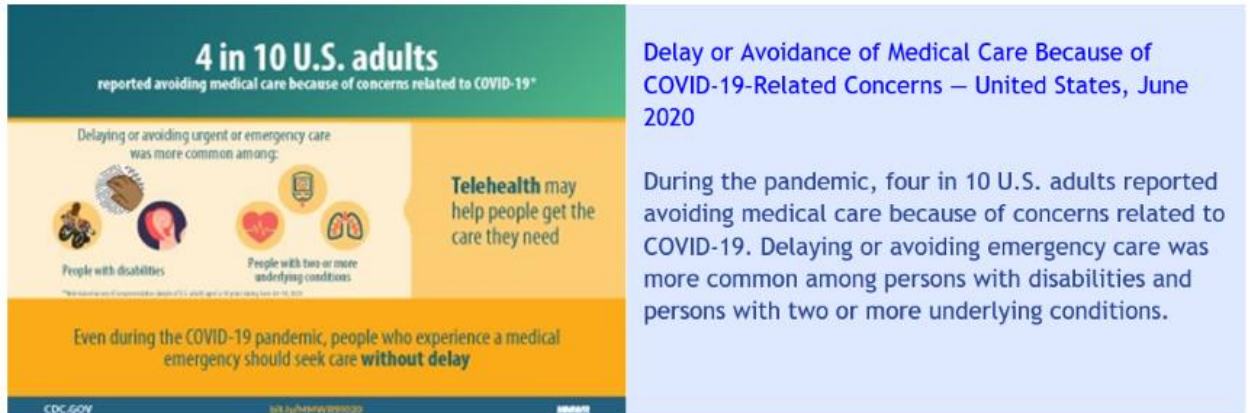
"With short staffing a challenge for our workers across many medical professions, this program helps create a pipeline of talent for our growing healthcare workforce. Whether you are a hospital or nursing home worker, you can take advantage of this opportunity in nearly every workplace. I'm so excited for our union workers who now have the opportunity to add new skills that will help them advance in their careers."

"Henry Ford College, and I personally, are proud to support the Futures for Frontliners program, and to partner with the State of Michigan and other public and private partners to help frontline workers create a better future," Russ Kavalhuna, Henry Ford College President. "We believe this program represents a unique, first-of-its-kind opportunity for people who have earned a College education. They put themselves at risk to serve Michigan residents during a pandemic. We will put their futures at the forefront now."

Several other business organizations, corporations, unions and legislators have volunteered to serve as Frontliners Champions with a commitment to inform their frontline workers, members and constituents about this tuition-free college opportunity.

For the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

- **Delay or Avoidance of Medical Care Because of COVID-19 Related Concerns - United States, June 2020**
From the CDC:



Delay or Avoidance of Medical Care Because of COVID-19-Related Concerns – United States, June 2020

During the pandemic, four in 10 U.S. adults reported avoiding medical care because of concerns related to COVID-19. Delaying or avoiding emergency care was more common among persons with disabilities and persons with two or more underlying conditions.

The entire report from the CDC can be found [here](#).

- **Hidden Consequences: How the COVID Pandemic is Impacting Children Series- Child Health and Wellness Webinar**
 - **From ASPR TRACIE:**
 - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center and Information Exchange (TRACIE), in collaboration with [ASPR's Pediatric Centers of Excellence](#), are collaborating on a webinar series focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic may affect children.
 - Details and registration links for the following topics are located on the PDF file below:
 - Child Health and Wellness
 - Child Emotional and Social Effects
 - The effects of Secondary Disasters on Children
 - Impact of COVID-19 on Children with Special Healthcare Needs
 - [aspr-tracie-hidden-consequences-children-and-covid-19-webinar-series-summary.pdf](#)

- **Michigan Stay Well Program**

Need someone to talk to? Free emotional support counseling is available.

When it comes to mental health impacts, the COVID-19 disaster has hit Americans hard. Studies show large increases in the amount of pandemic-related emotional distress: anxiety, depression, grief, fear, and relentless uncertainty about the future.

A behavioral health task force at the State of Michigan has provided a measure of relief by standing up the Michigan Stay Well counseling line. The line is staffed around the clock with trained crisis counselors who help residents process their feelings. Along with providing psychoeducational and emotional support, Stay Well counselors can connect residents to mental health resources in their communities or online—including group counseling sessions to ease the loneliness of isolation and allow residents to share their experiences.

To reach the counseling line, dial the state’s COVID-19 information hotline (1-888-535-3136) and press “8.” Remain on the line until you hear the prompt to speak with a Stay Well counselor. This service is free, confidential, and available 24/7, year-round.

The Stay Well team hopes emergency response agencies and employees will spread the word about this important counseling service! The program is funded by a grant from FEMA and SAMHSA. For more guidance on coping with pandemic-related distress, visit www.Michigan.gov/StayWell.



9/9/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- **Michigan Stay Well Program**
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- **Mask wearing and Asthma**

People with asthma over age 2 should be able to breathe through cloth or standard medical masks without trouble. There is enough airflow from gaps around the mask and through it, and you will get plenty of oxygen. If your asthma symptoms keep you from wearing a mask, call your doctor right away for help getting your asthma under control.

- Masks and Asthma Public – A shareable resource from MDHHS, for the public about the safety of mask wearing for those with Asthma
 - [Masks and Asthma Public \(002\).pdf](#)
- [Joint Statement issued by The American College of Chest Physicians, American Lung Association, American Thoracic Society and COPD Foundation, July 2020.](#)

9/4/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- **COVID-19 State of the System**

As many of you have heard, in the first months of the pandemic, there were alarming trends in numerous areas of the state where EMS responses were greatly decreased, while out of hospital cardiac arrests (OHCA) and out of hospital deaths rose in many areas. In some areas EMS transports were decreased almost 30%, while OHCA increased by almost 60%. Effort was placed in sharing information around the readiness and safety of utilizing EMS during the pandemic. To follow up, the same metrics were analyzed for the months of June, July, and August. On a positive note, EMS transports, compared to the same time frame of 2019, have been near normal (decreased by 3%). OHCA and out of hospital deaths continue to occur at a greater rate than 2019, with OHCA occurring at a 26% higher rate and out of hospital deaths occurring at a 21% higher rate, statewide. While this increased rate is less than it was in the first three months of the pandemic, it is still concerning. We should continue to advise our communities that EMS is ready and available to assist them in their time of need and they should not delay in seeking medical care.

- **Hidden Consequences: How the COVID Pandemic is Impacting Children Series- Child Health and Wellness Webinar**
 - **From ASPR TRACIE:**
 - *ASPR TRACIE and ASPR's [Pediatric Centers of Excellence](#) are collaborating on a webinar series focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children. Topics will include impact on child health and wellness, child emotional and social impact, and impact of COVID-19 on children with special healthcare needs, and how secondary/other disasters affect children during the pandemic. The first webinar in this series will focus on child health and wellness. Panelists will discuss resumption of routine care, missed immunizations and lead poisoning screening, sleep, and child neglect and abuse. This webinar will take place on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 1:30-2:45 PM ET.*
 - More information, as well as registration information, can be found on the flyer below.
 - [child-health-and-wellness-webinar-flyer-8-25-2020.pdf](#)

- **CHILDREN AND COVID-19 – INFECTION RATES INCREASING AMONG CHILDREN – Dr. Samantha Mishra**

The joint report from American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and The Children’s Hospital Association, indicates that COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths have increased at a faster rate in children and teens than among the general public. (8/20/2020 Report).

- From 8/6/2020 to 8/20/2020 there was a 21% increase in pediatric cases
- May 2020 pediatric COVID cases comprised about 5% of total COVID cases
 - This has increased to 9.3% as of August 20th
- Age range of 10-19 make up a larger share of the pediatric cases than very young children (in all states that track age ranges separately)
- Approximately 70% of all new pediatric cases are coming from states in the South and West.

To access the full report, updated weekly, click [here](#).

- **POWER TO PROTECT – VACCINES DURING COVID-19:**

From: <https://www.michigan.gov/vaccinesduringcovid>

Vaccines protect people from serious diseases at every age. Maintaining routine vaccination is critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. On-time vaccinations protect individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks, and can help reduce the burden on the health care system.

- ONLY 53.9% of Michigan children 19 - 35 months of age were fully immunized with recommended vaccines (June 2020, Michigan Care Improvement Registry-MICR).
- Michigan has seen a 15.3% drop in immunizations among children 24 months and younger (January – April 2020 vs. 2019, MDHHS)
 - Ask parents if their child is up-to-date on vaccinations

- Remind them to contact their child's doctor to schedule well-child and immunization catch up appointments
- Routine vaccination is an essential preventive care service for children, adolescents and adults, including pregnant women, that should not be delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

8/26/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

Many Masks – a short video for younger children about mask wearing

Children see masks everywhere they go; on parents and neighbors, outside and in the grocery store. In some circumstances children as young as 2 years old are asked to wear a mask. Our youngest children are experiencing changes to their every-day routines as much as our school-aged children and teens. This short video from Jump Start Early Childhood Consultation provides information at a level that young ones can understand, presented in a non-threatening and inclusive manner. Please share with your family, friends and local communities.

- Access the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Am5XSa753Ng>
- To learn more about Jump Start ECC visit www.jumpstartecc.com

8/19/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

Executive Orders – There have continued to be questions around executive orders and how they apply and effect EMS. We have developed a quick sheet to help answer your questions.

- [EOs for EMS Quick Sheet - FINAL.pdf](#)

Michigan Mask Aid – Governor Whitmer announces free masks available to protect vulnerable populations 4 million free face masks are being provided to Michigan residents who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 through a partnership with MDHHS, Ford Motor Company and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The masks will be distributed throughout the state in the upcoming weeks. Those interested in a free face masks should contact their [local Community Action Agency](#) or [local DHHS office](#). Download [a list of locations](#) that have already received masks for distribution. Please note that availability may vary by location.

8/12/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

DANIEL TIGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD Special, Created in Response to COVID-19 - Premieres and streams beginning Monday, August 17 – PBS KIDS

This sing-along special helps address some of the challenges and changes preschoolers and families have been facing lately. When Daniel learns he can't gather with all of his neighbors at the Neighborhood Carnival this year, it leads to lots of big feelings and questions, including what to do when he misses people he loves, how to keep himself and others healthy, and how to find ways to enjoy the extra time at home with his family.

<http://www.pbs.org/about/blogs/news/new-daniel-tigers-neighborhood-special-created-in-response-to-covid-19-premieres-august-17-on-pbs-kids/>

8/5/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- **Executive Orders**

There has been a lot of discussion about what the many executive orders issued mean to EMS personnel, agencies, and MCAs. Several opportunities for clarification have been released in the last week. Included are links for you to reference as needed. The Executive Orders on Masks and Safeguarding Michigan workers are the older of these orders. These overview the wearing of masks and face covering while in public and while within 6 feet of another person, as well as the things an employer must do if their employees must physically report to work. More clarification is coming, but what we now know is that licensed EMS agencies and licensed EMS personnel **ARE** expected to abide by these orders and our office is expected to consider disregard of these orders to be eligible for action according to the code. With that said, the simplest thing for EMS personnel to do is Mask Up! This includes, but is not limited to when you are on a call, when you are in your ambulance, when you are in uniform in a convenience store, and when you are within six feet of others in your station. It is very important that we are being as safe as we possibly can to keep ourselves, our partners, and our patients safe. It is considered mandatory per protocol, executive order, and as an emergency directive. Please feel free to reach out if you have questions about these requirements.

- [EMS Protocol 14.05](#) - Personal Protection During Treatment of Patients at Risk of COVID-19 and Decontamination of Equipment after Use
- **EO 2020-153** - Masks - Rescission of Executive Order 2020-147
- **EO 2020-160** - Amended Safe Start Order - Rescission of Executive Orders 2020-110, 2020-115, 2020-120, 2020-133, and 2020-143
- **EO 2020-161** - Safeguards to protect Michigan's workers from COVID-19 - Rescission of Executive Order 2020-145

- **Executive Directive 2020 - 08** - COVID-19 and enforcement by state departments and agencies
- [MDHHS Emergency Order Regarding Executive Orders 2020- -153, 2020-160, and 2020-161](#)
- **Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) Update for EMS**

Updated clinical features to look for in children with fevers >48 hours, especially in areas with widespread COVID-19 cases. This tipsheet below is also available on the EMS for Children website at www.michigan.gov/emsc in the EMSC during COVID-19 section.

 - [MIS-C EMS Tipsheet 8-4-2020 Final.pdf](#)
- **Personal Stories Needed**

If you have personal stories about COVID-19 infection, whether you were/are infected or you have someone very near to you that was, please reach out to [Emily Bergquist](#). Your information will be kept confidential, but we would like to have some EMS specific information to share. Thank you!
- **Michigan COVID-19 Safety Grant Program:**

The State of Michigan has launched the Michigan COVID-19 Safety Grant Program. The deadline to apply for the first round is Friday, August 7, 2020. Please click [here](#) for more information.
- **Updated CDC Guidance**

The CDC has released updated guidance for isolation duration and returning to work. Please see the links below.

 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

7/22/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

The CDC changed their return to work guidance for health care personnel with COVID-19. Broadly, they removed the recommendation for a test based strategy. For full information about returning to work after having COVID-19, please visit the CDC's website [here](#).

Personal Stories Needed

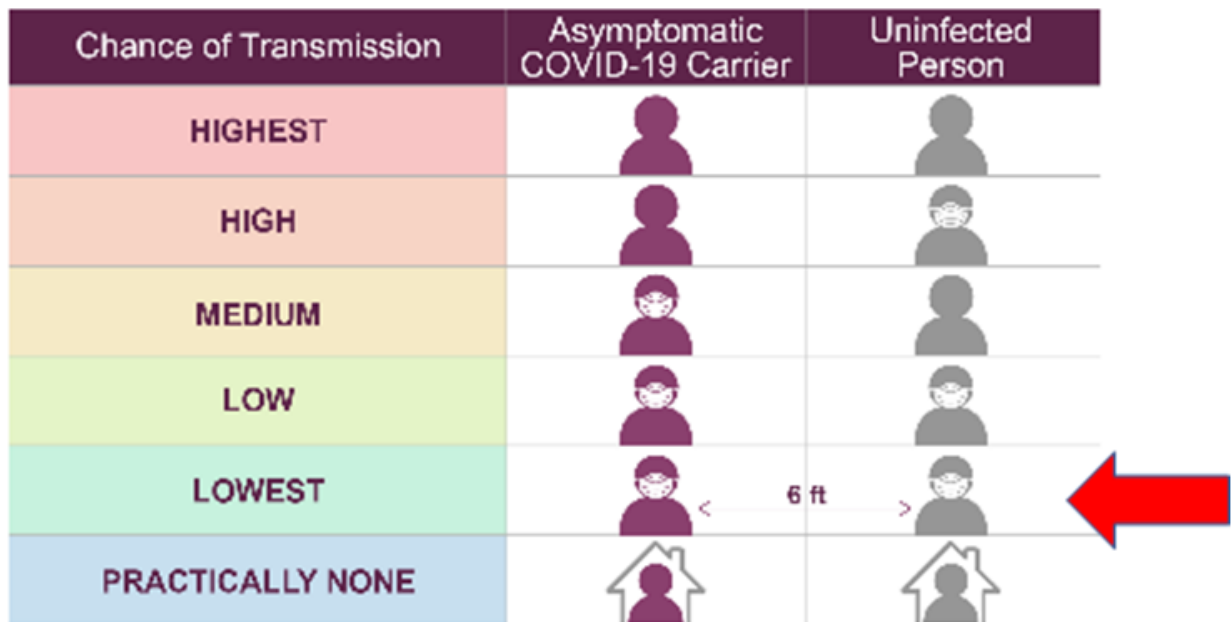
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7/15/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

Mask Up Michigan - Kathy Wahl

As part of the healthcare system, your friends, relatives and communities respect and look up to you as a trusted source of information. As such, I am asking you to help promote the Mask Up Michigan campaign. Your friends and relatives look up to you. Research shows that masks can greatly reduce the chance of spreading COVID-19, especially when approximately 40% of those who have COVID-19 may be asymptomatic. We can only contain the virus and keep Michigan open if everyone stays careful and masks up when they leave home, whether they feel sick or not. https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-100997_100998---,00.html



The Governor issued an executive order late last week requiring masks. There is a clause in that order that has caused some confusion as it relates to EMS. The EMS protocols remain clear and in effect and you must wear face coverings as outlined in protocol. For more information on face coverings, their use, and even how to make them if needed, please refer to this [document](#).

Thank you for helping in the war on COVID-19!

MI Safe Start Map

The MI Safe Start Map is an interactive tool that identifies risk levels by county is available at <https://www.mistartmap.info/>.

MI Safe Start Map
Track the risk levels of COVID-19 Indicators



Other State of Michigan coronavirus resources

Michigan



Indicators, Trends, and Risk Determinations as of: Jun 25

Michigan: Statewide

correctional facilities excluded from data
* Over previous 7 days

Epidemic Spread

Public Health Capacity

MI Safe Start Map
Track the risk levels of COVID-19 Indicators Dashboard About

7/4/20 Update Although the Lansing Region case rates have decreased in the last week, the region remains High risk level. The Grand Rapids Region increased to High risk level this week after three weeks of increased cases. The Detroit Region has increased to the Medium High risk level based on case rate and percent positivity increases over three weeks. The Kalamazoo and Jackson Regions are at the Medium risk level. However, data from both regions indicates they may increase in risk level shortly. Case rates and testing positivity have declined in the Saginaw Region over the past week, which continues to be at the Medium risk level. Traverse City and Upper Peninsula Regions have seen increased case rates and testing positivity, and both are now at the Medium risk level.



Other State of Michigan coronavirus resources

Michigan



Indicators, Trends, and Risk Determinations as of: Jul 07

Michigan: Statewide

correctional facilities excluded from data
* Over previous 7 days

Epidemic Spread

Public Health Capacity

Personal Stories Needed

If you have personal stories about COVID-19 infection, whether you were/are infected or you have someone very near to you that was, please reach out to [Emily Bergquist](#). Your information will be kept confidential, but we would like to have some EMS specific information to share. Thank you!













7/8/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- MDHHS and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) has developed a communication tool: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Info: Coronavirus that would be an excellent tool for EMS agencies to have available. The tool consists of communication

cards with information relevant to COVID-19. They can be downloaded and printed [here](#).

- Emergency treatment protocols of section 14 have been extended and are being reviewed monthly by the QATF to keep them current. The state versions of these protocols are posted at michigan.gov/emscovid, but be sure you are checking with your local MCA to know which they have adopted and if there are local versions in place.
- There has been some discussion related to an online training and the efficacy of masks (other than N95), including face coverings. There were points, early in the COVID-19 response where it was believed that masks didn't provide protection. As more has been learned about the virus and how it travels, we now know this is untrue. Masks do provide a mechanism to stop the droplets that carry the COVID-19 virus. If you are around aerosolization of material (such as breathing for a patient), the droplets get SMALLER and THEN you would need to wear an N95. There can be a lot of discussion around this, but the fact remains, covering your face protects you, your patients, and your families. Also, in relation to online trainings, please remember to check when the training was published. A lot has changed in what we know about COVID-19 and it is very important that we are taking in and disseminating accurate, current information. The graphic below is from MDHHS and can be found [here](#).

Chance of Transmission	Asymptomatic COVID-19 Carrier	Uninfected Person
HIGHEST		
HIGH		
MEDIUM		
LOW		
LOWEST		
PRACTICALLY NONE		

6 ft

7/1/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

July Action for Happiness Calendar – Resilience

This month's calendar from Action for Happiness focuses on resilience.

- [july_2020_actionforhappiness.pdf](#)

Resilience is a term that we are hearing more and more as we cope with the ongoing stressors of the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, and other ongoing challenges. Resilience is a skill, which all humans possess, but like many skills it requires attention and practice to cultivate. It has been described as our ability to cope with and bounce back from adversity, to bend instead of break when under pressure, to persevere and adapt when facing challenges. We do not just “have” resilience, we can learn how to improve it and become more resilient! This helps us feel open to new ideas, let go of past difficulties and hardships, as well as learn new and healthy ways to cope. Click [here](#) to learn a bit more about resilience.

6/25/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- June 19, 2020: [FDA advises consumers not to use hand sanitizer products manufactured by Eskbiochem](#), due to the potential presence of methanol (wood alcohol), a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested.
- The Division of EMS and Trauma is working in collaboration with the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services (MAAS) and the MDHHS Communications on strategies to encourage the general public to utilize EMS for emergencies. This initiative has come about due to the decreased number of EMS runs and the increased number of out of hospital cardiac arrests that have occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) noted that in the 10 weeks following the declaration of the COVID-19 national emergency, visits to emergency departments declined by 23% for heart attacks, 20% for strokes and 10% for uncontrolled high blood sugar. Nationwide, Emergency Department visits declined 42% for the month of April 2020 compared to April 2019 (CDC, 2020).
- Executive Order 2020-125 regarding Worker's Compensation is attached below for your review.
 - [2020-125 Emerg Order - Workers comp \(final signed\).pdf](#)

6/18/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

As Michigan re-opens, it is important to remember that the pandemic is not over. Please continue to protect yourselves, your communities and your families by wearing masks when out, frequent hand hygiene, and continuing to use social distancing whenever possible. The State is closely monitoring data for public health surveillance and to determine PPE needs and resource availability. It is critical that agencies enter their required data in EMResource so that the State can stay prepared should the pandemic take a turn for the worse. Thank you to all agencies that have been entering their EMResource data.

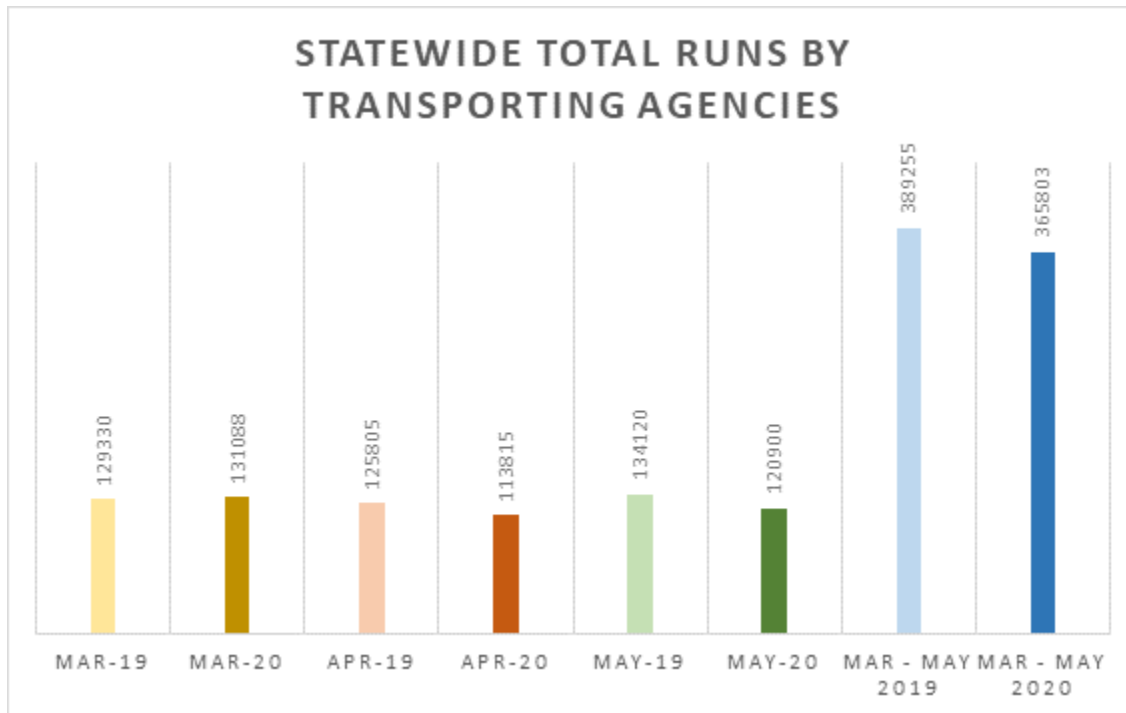
For more information on the current status of COVID-19 in Michigan go to https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173---,00.html

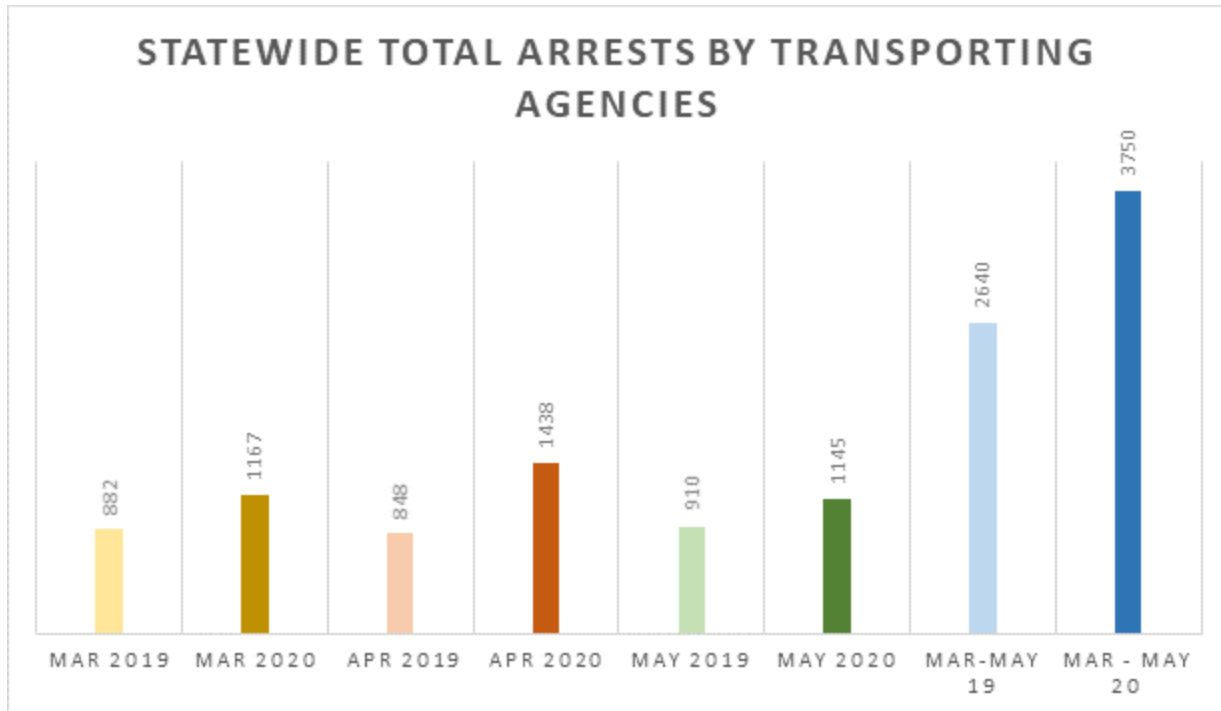
6/11/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

Throughout the response we have been reviewing different aspects of our system and how the pandemic has affected EMS. While agencies have reported decreased call volume, we have seen a significant increase in out of hospital cardiac arrests (OHCA). The increase is variable across the state, but the total increase from March through May 2019 to March through May 2020 is 35%. Runs classified as 911 calls increased only 3% over the same time, with total volume decreasing 6%. Obviously, this is concerning for all of us.

The reasons why this has happened are still unknown, and we likely won't know in the near future. It could be fear of contracting COVID-19, so people aren't seeking treatment. Possibly people haven't been getting preventative care, so issues are not handled before they become critical. Whatever the reason, the message to the citizens of Michigan should be clear. Emergencies happen every day, inside and outside of the pandemic. The office is working on graphics to distribute to encourage citizens to seek medical assistance if they are not feeling well. Please reach out through your networks to encourage your citizens to call you if they need you, and that you will be safe and help protect them at all times, but especially during this pandemic.





6/5/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

MIS-C Quick Sheet

Please review this quick sheet about Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) associated with COVID-19. The vast majority of MIS-C cases have been reported in areas most substantially impacted by COVID-19 cases, throughout Southeast Michigan. This quick sheet highlights the signs and symptoms to be aware of when assessing a child with fever. It also addresses signs that may indicate serious illness, cardiac involvement or rapid decompensation.

- [Accessible - MIS-C for EMS.pdf](#)

5/28/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

MIS-C – Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children – Also referred to as PIMS and Kawasaki-like illness. This is an inflammatory condition in children associated with COVID-19.

This syndrome is characterized by a persistent fever (>100.4) for >24 hours accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Irritability or sluggishness - fatigue

- Poor appetite or difficulty eating and drinking
- Abdominal pain or discomfort ***The most common complaint***
- Nausea – with or without vomiting or diarrhea
- Rash – anywhere on the body – can be pale, patchy, blotchy or even seem blueish
- Conjunctivitis (red or pink eyes) – bloodshot eyes
- Pharyngitis – red, swollen or sore throat
- Enlarged lymph nodes on the neck – can be one sided – some children experience this as “neck pain”
- Red and/or cracked lips
- Red (strawberry) tongue
- Swollen or red hands and feet

Some children may present with these symptoms as well as signs of shock – including hypotension and tachycardia. It is imperative to have a high degree of clinical suspicion – those children who go on to experience severe disease often decompensate quickly, requiring critical care.

Further educational material and quick-sheets coming soon.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ON THE RISE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

You may notice concerning warning signs, strained interactions between children and their parent/caregiver, or even physical signs of abuse or neglect on a child. A webinar is being created to refresh your ability to detect such signs of abuse and neglect, CEs will be offered. Please look for updates from the EMS office regarding this webinar.

You may be the only eyes and ears to notice the warning signs of abuse for a child. If you see something, say something.

- Call the hotline at **855-444-3911** to report suspected abuse or neglect.
- Fill out the appropriate [DHS-3200](#) form and submit (fax or email)

5/21/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

The cases of child abuse, neglect and fatalities have been on the rise since the COVID-19 state of emergency. Many ***early warning signs are not being reported*** – because children are not in school. Instead, abuse is going undetected until the injuries are much more serious - often life threatening.

As first responders with the unique opportunity to enter these children's homes - you may notice concerning warning signs, strained interactions between children and their parent/caregiver, or even physical signs of abuse or neglect on the child. ***You may be the only eyes and ears to notice these warning signs of abuse. If you see something, say something.***

If the child is being transported for care – be sure to report to the receiving medical team your concern for abuse/neglect. Include details that raised your suspicion. Leave your contact information with the team if they should have more questions about the circumstances/evidence you saw.

- Call the hotline at **855-444-3911** to report suspected abuse or neglect.
- Fill out the appropriate [DHS-3200](#) form and submit (fax or email)

A CE Webinar is being created to refresh you on the detection of child abuse and neglect. Additionally, documentation and reporting will be reviewed. Please be on the look-out for updates from the EMS office regarding these opportunities – ***coming soon.***

COVID-19 – TIME CAPSULE:

Taking time to reflect is valuable, not only for our own well-being but also our children's, especially during the unique circumstances of COVID-19. This time has brought challenges and stressors unlike those we have experienced before, but it has also created opportunities. Taking time with our children to reflect on the events that are taking place is a wonderful way to bond and grow together, as well as facilitate open conversations and strengthen trust. This will benefit your child long into their future. Consider filling out this [COVID-19 Time Capsule](#) with your child, or if they are older – encourage them to work on it and share their perspective. There are additional pages available to customize the Time Capsule on the designers webpage as well letsembark.ca/time-capsule. Take some time every day, to find the good and share it with your children – it can be the boost everyone needs to stay strong, and stay well! You can access this Time Capsule any time (on the [EMS for Children](#) page as well as the [EMS-COVID](#) page) access both from the **main EMS website** Michigan.gov/ems.

5/13/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

Share Your COVID Experience:

As the response continues, we are aware of many personnel across the state that have been more personally affected. The stories of the EMS personnel who have fought and are still fighting this disease are important to this office and the EMS community. If you would be willing to talk to someone from our office, in an effort to share the reality of the disease with fellow responders, please contact us. Thank you.

5/6/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

As the COVID response continues, the activities and information evolve. In some areas of the state, EMS is assisting with transport of remains, in other areas, personnel are assisting with specimen collection, while still other areas have seen a decrease in run volume and not a significant amount of viral activity. Our state, and all of its citizens, are dealing with changes, regardless of where you are located. It is important to remember that as medical professionals we need to keep informed and aware of the sources of our information. The Federal Healthcare Resilience Task Force EMS/Prehospital Team has published a document with several reputable and more in-depth sources to review in the instance you would like more information than what is found on www.michigan.gov/coronavirus or www.michigan.gov/EMSCOVID. The resources vary from literature review to clinical guidance, and are free to access. There is also more information in the section of this newsletter from NHTSA.

- [EMS21B COVID-19 Literature and Research Resources for Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Final.pdf](#)

4/29/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

Yesterday, a revision to the set of COVID-19 protocols was released. They can be found at www.michigan.gov/emscovid. A summary of change document was created so it would be easier to see what was changed from the previous version. The goal was to not only bring the guidance up to date, but to make the organization clearer and easier to navigate. Please be sure you are reaching out to your MCA to verify adoption before assuming any of these are active for your area. Each MCA may have their own response, so keep in contact with them so that you know what actions you should be taking for you and your patients.

4/16/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

The response surrounding COVID-19 continues across the state. There are confirmed cases in 77 of the counties in Michigan. We appreciate everyone's effort in staying safe while taking the best clinical care of the citizens of Michigan. Every MCA, agency, and individual provider is doing their best to adapt to this ever-changing situation. For the most up to date information, please continue to visit our websites www.michigan.gov/coronavirus, and www.michigan.gov/EMSCOVID. This week there are several additions to both sites that can help EMS respond and understand the other aspects of the response. Yesterday we posted a new [Quick Sheet](#) that includes Best Practices for Risk Mitigation for COVID-19.

There are important notes in that document for EMS personnel to read and apply in their daily work, this includes cloth masks for patients and improving the isolation between the driver's and patient compartments of ambulances. If you have questions about cloth face coverings, MDHHS has released an [FAQ document](#) to help clarify this effort. Additionally, there is an emergency staffing protocol being released today that helps support the changes allowed under the Governor's Executive Order that was reported on last week.

As a point of clarification for any personnel in MCAs that are using Metered Dose Inhalers instead of nebulized albuterol at this time, the equivalency is 4 puffs delivered over 30-60 seconds through a spacer is roughly equivalent to 2.5 mg of nebulized albuterol. The clinical protocol will be revised to reflect this information, but it is important that you have that knowledge as you are treating your patients as soon as possible.

Guidance on the expansion of COVID-19 testing prioritization can be found here:

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIDHHS/2020/04/14/file_attachments/1427255/Test%20Priority%20Criteria_Memo_FINAL_2020.04.13.pdf

4/8/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

On Tuesday, April 7, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-39 – Temporary Relief from Certain Restrictions and Requirements Governing the Provision of Emergency Medical Services.

Please see the memo below from Kathy Wahl, Director of the Division of EMS and Trauma, and the accompanying Questions and Clarifications document.

[EO 2020-39.pdf](#)

[Executive Order 2020-39 Memo.pdf](#)

[COVID-19 Licensing Questions and Clarification 4.8.20.pdf](#)

Please continue to monitor these websites for updated information about COVID-19:

www.michigan.gov/emscovid

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

4/1/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

The BETP continues to update internal policies and clinical protocols to respond to this pandemic. There are now more than 9,000 cases in Michigan. For up to date information and resources about the state's response, go to www.michigan.gov/coronavirus. For EMS specific content, go to www.michigan.gov/emscovid. Every member of the EMS office works on this response to try to make things better for the personnel, agencies, and MCAs in the state. From issuing temporary licenses to

drafting clinical protocols to activating COVID related data elements, everyone is doing their best to keep up. If it is taking longer than normal to get back to you, please be patient, someone will get back to you as soon as they can.

SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS DURING COVID-19:

This toolkit has resources to help preserve your own resilience and mental health, as well as that of your family during the COVID-19 Outbreak. Additionally, it provides areas to monitor yourself and your peers for during this crisis, in order to seek help early in coping with the unique stress you experience. Many First Responders are reporting increased levels of depression, anxiety, insomnia and stress. You are not alone in these feelings, and there are resources to help you get through them! We thank you for your bravery and dedication to serving others every day, and especially during this crisis, and hope these tools help support you as you persevere. You will find the toolkit below.

3/25/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

All staff are working remotely and will continue to serve you as best as we can. There are a few exceptions to our normal course of business:

- **Fax and Mail** – We may not be able to get to these right away since we are not in the office. For those agencies that need to send a check in the mail for their agency license that expires 3/31/2020, please email Derek Flory ahead of time: floryd@michigan.gov. Otherwise we encourage you to send all correspondence via email to our general email box: MDHHS-MichiganEMS@michigan.gov
- **Agency and Provider Licenses** – We will continue to process licenses, however, we do not have the capability to print a paper copy. A PDF copy of the license is available within your account in the Imagetrend eLicensing portal: <https://www.mi-emsis.org/licensure/portal#/login>.
- **Agency and Vehicle Inspections** – Inspections are being conducted using video technology. Agencies are required to sign an emergency inspection confirmation upon completion of their inspection. If you do not have video capabilities, please contact your EMS Regional Coordinator for further instruction.
- **Education Program approvals** – All site visits are being conducted using video technology. The EMS regional coordinator will be in contact with you to set this up. No paper approvals will be mailed. A PDF copy of the approval will be emailed to the Program Director.
- **CE approvals** – All approvals will continue to be through email.
- **EMS Provider Temporary License** – Students who have completed a Michigan EMS Education course within the last two years and are unable to take the cognitive and/or the psychomotor exam, are eligible to apply for a temporary license in the eLicensing portal: <https://www.mi-emsis.org/licensure/portal#/login>.
- **Other Unlicensed EMS Providers** – May apply for a regular Michigan license and meet the requirements stated in the application. Apply in the eLicensing portal: <https://www.mi-emsis.org/licensure/portal#/login>.

Other Notes:

- Contact the appropriate regional Healthcare Coalition (HCC) for any PPE needs. A list of the HCCs can be found on our website: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71548_54783_54826_56171-237197--,00.html#hcc
- COVID-19 patient care documentation – Respiratory: Coronavirus, Unspecified. For those not using Michigan’s Elite System, the ICD-10 code is B34.2 if you would like to add this impression to your documentation software.

Our office will continue to send updates as changes are made to assist our EMS system. Please check your email frequently and our website for current updates to protocols: www.michigan.gov/emscovid.

3/18/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

The staff of the EMS Section has continued to be actively involved in the response to the COVID-19 outbreak. A conference call specifically related to EMS was conducted on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Minutes for this call will be available on the website.

There have been multiple emergency protocols released, with more still pending. The best place to keep updated on issues specific to EMS in Michigan is www.michigan.gov/EMSCOVID. There are multiple links to other resources on that site as well.

Finally, below you will find some new quick sheets with EMS guidance. The information on these sheets is concise and is intended to be a quick reference for issues related to this response. Please feel free to print and post these as you would like. Included are PPE, Screening, and a Translation tool.

Please continue to check the website regularly, wear your PPE, and wash your hands and frequently touched surfaces regularly.

3/11/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR EMS:

- 3/10/2020- First cases in Michigan of presumptive positive COVID-19 cases.
- 3/10/2020- Governor Whitmer declared a state of emergency to maximize effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- There are currently 33 counties with active health monitoring.
- [Updated Guidance on PSAP/EMD Focused Screening for COVID-19 and EMS-Related](#)- this guidance has been expanded to include all patients with respiratory distress & fever being treated as potentially infectious patients. Again, another reminder to use your appropriate PPE.
- [Emergency System Protocol 8.32](#)- Conventional Response to Potential COVID-19 Outbreak.

- [Local Health Departments](#) -The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has an interactive Local Health Department map that includes all Local Health Departments and their contact information, should you need to contact them.
- EMS Documentation
 - Your documentation in this type of event plays an important role in many ways. EMS data is the foundation for surveillance in emerging disease outbreaks and first responder safety. The information in your ePCRs is being used daily to screen for possible COVID-19 patients. In the narrative portion of your ePCR, please continue to include important details such as suspected COVID-19 patient, any PPE utilized, and any additional risk factors have been noted.
- **Web resources:**
 - [CDC COVID-19 Website](#)
 - [Michigan.gov/emsCOVID](#)
 - [Michigan.gov/coronavirus](#)
 - [IAFF.org/coronavirus/](#)

3/4/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) INFORMATION FOR EMS:

Since the last Wednesday update, nine deaths have occurred in the state of Washington and more than 25 first responders were exposed and subsequently quarantined. MDHHS is closely monitoring the situation and is working with our federal, state, and local partners in preparation for and in response to this emerging public health threat. As part of that response, MDHHS is recommending that EMS agencies and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) follow the current guidance.

Public safety agencies are highly encouraged to reinforce with their field personnel how to respond to and manage a patient of this type. Agencies should also review and practice appropriate PPE levels, handwashing, and disinfection practices.

2/26/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) INFORMATION FOR EMS:

There has been an increase in coverage surrounding COVID-19 in the media, and we would like to make certain that EMS personnel are apprised of what the situation is at the current point. First, we have created a COVID-19 EMS Website. (hyperlink) On that website are emergency protocols, communications, PSAP guidance, and resource links for referencing. Updates will be housed there as a place for you as providers to go to for COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease) information.

As a reminder, good infection control is important for every patient you encounter. Please be diligent in following standard PPE practices.

Links to information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Updated information about COVID-19 may be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
- Guidance for EMS can be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>
- Infection prevention & control recommendations can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html>.
- Additional information for healthcare personnel can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html>.