



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

COVID-19 Response EMS Conference Call
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
2:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Introduction

Kathy Wahl, BS, MSN, RN

Director, Division of EMS and Trauma

- Kathy Wahl greeted everyone on the call today and started with updates from the CHECC and SEOC briefings on the current COVID-19 situation.
 - Michigan figures from yesterday
 - 25,635 confirmed cases
 - 1,602 deaths
 - Testing capabilities and testing criteria were expanded.
 - Individuals with minor symptoms will be able to be tested.
 - This is dependent on supplies.
 - Additional expanded testing may be coming out soon.
- She directed people to the www.michigan.gov/coronavirus website. There is a link on the page to find testing sites, also found [here](#). The website is continually updated and has great information and resources. She also mentioned www.michigan.gov/emscovid website that contains EMS specific information.
- She reported there is a behavioral health support line available to everyone in Michigan. It will operate 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. and the number is 888-733-7753.
- She thanked everyone for all they are doing and for joining the call.

2. EMResource

Johnny Wagner

EMS Data Coordinator

- Johnny Wagner went over the EMResource tool that rolled out to the EMS agencies in the state two weeks ago. It is a tool to capture PPE levels and allows the state to see where the needs are. He spoke about a misconception that entering the values will allow the state to take it and said that is not the intent. It gives the state the ability to respond to those with low supplies. He said the county emergency managers can assist and they should be contacted if help is needed. He said about 60% of the agencies have submitted and he thanked everyone for their participation.
 - Kathy reiterated that this is so highest need can be determined. She said agencies are only asked to submit once a week and participation is appreciated.

3. Licensing Update EO 2020-39

Sabrina Kerr, BA, MPA, EMS Section Manager
Bureau of EMS, Trauma & Preparedness

- Executive Order 2020-39 was issued on 4/7/2020. The document is available on the EMS website [here](#), as well as an [FAQ](#) document. Sabrina briefly went over the changes.
 - AGENCIES
 - Annual agency and vehicle inspections will not to be done for agencies.
 - If there is an issue or you are unsure about something, contact your regional coordinator.
 - New and replacement vehicles will still be inspected and that will be via videoconference.
 - Staffing requirements
 - Sabrina went over the minimum staffing requirements.
 - Basic: EMT and MFR
 - LALS: AEMT and MFR
 - ALS: Paramedic and MFR
 - Downgrading
 - A downgrade for agency or vehicle does not have to be reported to the EMS office while the Executive Order is in place.
 - Transport
 - Any destination designated by the MCA is allowed for emergent or nonemergent transport.
 - PERSONNEL
 - Personnel Renewals
 - CEs are temporarily waived.
 - Licenses that expired after March 10, 2020, through the end of the emergency declaration are deemed unexpired and extended for 6 months.
 - Relicensure
 - The time period to relicense is increased to 5 years and CEs are waived.
 - Reciprocity
 - Education requirements are relaxed.

4. Medical Director Update

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

- Dr. Fales thanked everyone for joining the call and doing your part in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in Southeast Michigan.
- Dr. Fales discussed two recent losses in the Michigan EMS community and led a moment of remembrance for their contributions to EMS.
 - Paramedic Paul Novicki
 - Jari Pulford, Former Executive Director for SWM System
- Dr. Fales discussed safety and went over scenarios that had high success rates and positive outcomes with proper use of PPE. Diligence is important. Time will tell how the pandemic will change how things are done in the future.

- Dr. Fales discussed airways. Questions have been asked about the preferred airway technique. He said there is no good data. He spoke of some of the advantages of supraglottic airway, as well as disadvantages. At this point, he said you should look to the local MCA for guidance. He discussed confidence in the procedure, as well as proper PPE, including the use of fitted N95 masks. He discussed CPAP. It is not banned, but is encouraged to be a last resort and Dr. Fales discussed further. He reiterated seeking guidance from the local MCA. He discussed hospitals banning CPAP and coming up with good strategies for transfer of the patient to the hospitals.
- Destinations for patients with confirmed COVID-19 were discussed. The closest hospital may not have the required facilities. Dr. Fales discussed alternate destinations and the protocol may be adjusted to look more like the trauma destination protocol.
- Cluster outbreaks at residential facilities were discussed. Dr. Fales said this is a good opportunity for preplanning with these facilities for collaboration.

5. Summary of Response

Emily Bergquist, EMT-P I/C, MSA
 Medical Control Authority Coordinator
 Division of EMS and Trauma

- There will be a document released with risk mitigation best practices that we would like agencies and personnel to utilize.
 - She discussed expanding CDC guidelines on face coverings to patients regardless of the patient's chief complaint due to the potential of asymptomatic carriers. This should be in conjunction with your own PPE.
 - Ventilation in the ambulance. Emily said it is very difficult to isolate the driving compartment. She said points to keep in mind are always keeping the vent on high and circulating air from the outside. Sealing the window between the compartments. She also discussed opening the back of the ambulance first. She discussed the negative airflow that can occur when you open the driver's compartment doors first.
- Emily said the notifications for these meetings are going out via gov delivery or the [MIHAN](#). If you are not getting notices for these calls, please send an email to MDHHS-MichiganEMS@michigan.gov.

6. Q&A

All

- A participant asked about agency inspections for renewals. Sabrina explained. Kathy said necessary inspections will be conducted via video conference.
- A participant asked Johnny if the data entered into EMResource was being released to the public. Dr. Fales addressed this question and said it is not available to the general public. The state does use some of the information on its public dashboards.
- A participant asked if MCAs need to implement protocols in response to the Executive Order. Emily addressed and said a statewide emergency protocol is being developed but MCAs can do their own protocols.
- A participant asked if vehicle upgrades will be inspected and Sabrina said yes, and they will be done by videoconference. The regional coordinator will be in contact.

- A participant asked about licensing renewals and Sabrina addressed. The licenses are automatically extended six months, but they can renew now, if they wish.
- A participant asked if anyone has information on the effectiveness of UV light on the decontamination of the ambulance. Kathy said they looked at the cleaning guidelines from the CDC and reviewed with subject matter experts and the UV light can't get everywhere. Kathy said it is important to use PPE and wipe everything down with a germicide.
- A participant asked about agency inspection being waived. It is only during the declared emergency and while the Executive Order is in effect.
- A participant asked how a specific person would get licensed through the state under the Emergency Order. Sabrina advised the participant to email herself or Colleen Nethaway for specifics.
- A participant asked for guidance about a situation concerning a deceased patient. Dr. Fales asked if they have contacted the medical examiner's office. The participant says that would be a delay and the hospital tells them to follow the protocol. Dr. Fales said he would discuss with the participant offline after the call.
- A participant asked about the testing of people with minor symptoms and asked about the definition of minor symptoms. Dr. Fales addressed. He said the challenge is the viral load in the body tends to be related to the symptoms and the challenges this presents with testing. Kathy said it is also dependent on testing supplies. She said the MIHAN can be sent out to the agencies via gov delivery, but she encourages everyone to sign up for the [MIHAN](#) so they receive the important updates in a timely manner.
- A participant asked where he can find requirements for the drive through testing. Kathy said a physician's order is required but will review to see if there are more requirements. Emily said each testing site has different requirements and suggested going through the coronavirus site for [testing locations](#).
- A participant asked about internal use of antibody testing kits. Kathy said they are not necessarily diagnostic and there are other factors involved, such as validation and CLIA waivers. She said they have not recommended anyone be screening employees with their own tests. She said to send her the information and she will try to find the answer. Dr. Fales also said to contact the local Public Health Department for guidance.
- A participant asked if it would be beneficial to tarp up cabinets on non-dedicated COVID-19 ambulances. Emily addressed and spoke about not doing aerosolized procedures in the ambulance.
- A participant asked about MIOSHA annual fit testing. In his area, most of them don't have the fit test solution. He asked if MIOSHA could put out an announcement. Dr. Fales said it is important to find ways to fit test for the mask the employee will be wearing. Dr. Fales suggested working with the county emergency management and healthcare coalitions. This is an important point to discuss. Dr. Fales spoke about the qualitative method.
- A participant asked about PPE and CDC guidelines. Emily said that keeping respiratory equipment in place but doffing everything else is still the guideline and gave examples.

- A participant said she found two bottles of the fit testing solution at Fastenal. She asked for guidance on disinfecting wipes. She said they've been getting denied on purchases as they are not fire based. Kathy said this is the first time she's heard about it. Dr. Fales asked the participant to email with specifics.
 - Additional questions can be emailed to MDHHS-MichiganEMS@michigan.gov.
 - Kathy thanked everyone for their participation.
7. Future Calls Statewide EMS COVID-19 Call
April 28, 2020 at 2:00pm
- Topic suggestions for items to address can be sent via email at MDHHS-MichiganEMS@michigan.gov.

The call was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

The call was closed at 3:06 p.m.