



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON  
DIRECTOR

**COVID-19 Response EMS Conference Call**  
**Tuesday, May 26, 2020**  
**2:00 PM**

**Minutes**

1. Introduction Kathy Wahl, BS, MSN, RN  
Director, Division of EMS and Trauma
  - Kathy introduced the call and acknowledge EMS week having just completed.
2. EMResource Johnny Wagner, BS-IT/AN  
Bureau of EMS, Trauma & Preparedness
  - Johnny gave an overview of the new data elements on the EMResource dashboard.
    - The intent is to gather more information about the testing progress and the ability for EMS agencies to collect specimens for their internal staff and ability to assist other entities, if needed with specimen collection.
    - Kathy stressed the importance of this information for response and tracking statewide.
3. Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children Samantha Mishra, DO, MPH  
Bureau of EMS, Trauma & Preparedness
  - Dr. Mishra gave an overview of MIS-C (PIMS, Kawaski like illness). She discussed the symptoms and how it is a different than a COVID infection in that it is an immune response that overreacts inside the body. Many of the children with this condition heal well, but they often require critical care and rapid intervention to improve.
  - The syndrome is seen with refractory fevers. This means that the fever is above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, regardless of anti-pyretic. This condition does not present like COVID-19, however. It is not primarily respiratory presentation. These kids look differently, often with the following signs/symptoms:
    - Irritability or sluggishness - fatigue
    - Abdominal pain or discomfort
    - Poor appetite and/or difficulty feeding – too sick to drink fluids
    - Nausea – with or without vomiting or diarrhea
    - Rash – anywhere on the body – can be pale, patchy 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”
- Dr. Mishra also advised of what may be mimickers of other conditions including:
  - Allergic reactions – Red/cracked lips, tongue, throat – could be easily mistaken for an allergic reaction – especially when the throat is involved
  - Rashes – can come in a variety of forms, severities, and locations
  - Could be easy to assume sunburn, typical viral exanthem, or contact irritation – especially warmer months with children outside a lot more
  - Pink Eye – conjunctivitis – bloodshot eyes
  - Normally NOT a majorly concerning symptom but in this case – if present with fever becomes a true concern
- The takeaway is that providers should have a higher degree of suspicion for children with fever during this time and document accordingly.

#### 4. Licensing Update

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

- Sabrina covered the extension of the state of emergency and its impact on licenses.
- Gov Whitmer issued EO 2020-100 on 5/22/20 which affirmed that EO 2020-39 (EMS EO) remains in effect during the declared state of emergency/disaster.
  - EO2020-99 extended the emergency to 6/19/20 at 11:59pm.
  - All personnel who are set to renew in June have 2 options for renewal –
    - renew, pay the fee, with no requirement for proof of continuing education OR
    - take a 6-month extension from the declared emergency/disaster - right now that is December 2020.
  - No other licensing changes have been made.

#### 5. Medical Director Update

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

- Dr. Fales spoke about receiving facilities and their changes around entrances and effective diseases. Some best practices include:
  - Facilities should notify their MCA and surrounding EMS agencies of changes to incoming traffic.
  - Transferring personnel should talk with the sending facility and obtain contact information for the receiving facility in order to contact them prior to arrival for direction for patient entry to the facility.
- Dr. Fales spoke about the decrease in overall call volume over the state. The overall decrease is accompanied by what appears to be an increase of out of hospital cardiac arrests. There are increasing concerns that patients are not calling for assistance or seeking medical care as early as they should. There will be more information to come on this topic.

- Kathy asked Dr. Fales to speak about Remdesivir, an antiviral that has seen some success in patients with COVID-19.
  - A study was conducted where the arm that received Remdesivir had a decreased time to improvement of symptoms, so the study was concluded early.
  - When the study concluded there was a not statistically increased decrease in mortality for these patients as well. Because the study was concluded early, there is a possibility that the question of Remdesivir and mortality will not be answered.
  - Remdesivir has received an FDA EUA for treatment of patients with COVID-19 and specific clinical signs and symptoms.
- Kathy spoke about the remote work going on with the staff. She asked for patience with the office as we continue this effort.
- The MI MORT has continued to operate, but for the now the immediate need has decreased. The facility will continue to be set up in the instance that it is needed again, but it is not currently receiving remains.

## 6. Q&A

All

- A participant asked about precautions for COVID-19 and PPE requirements with MIS-C patients. Dr. Fales stated that yes, about 20% of these patients have a positive PCR. They should have the same PPE as a COVID patient as they are presenting with a fever in the field.
- A participant asked about the dashboard and the question about specimen collection. Those agencies that do not have MCA approval for performing specimen collection should answer no to that question.
- A participant asked a question about diverting children away to specialty centers based on MIS-C symptoms. For now, with the information that is available, the patients should continue to go to the closest appropriate facility. Online medical control could divert the patients to pediatric facilities as needed.

## 7. Future Calls

Statewide EMS COVID-19 Call  
June 9th, 2020 at 2:00pm