

COVID-19 Update

April 8th, 2020

UPDATES

All previous updates posted to website: www.wrmcc.org

Governor's Emergency Order

Late last night Governor's Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-39 which includes 10 provisions that directly impact EMS in the State of Michigan. Some of the highlights are that the order includes allows for adjusted ambulance staffing, temporary suspension of agency inspections unless there is a complaint, allowances for downgrading of ambulances based on staffing availability, and an extension of 6 months to all expiring EMS licensure and CPR certifications past the end of the emergency declaration. For a full review of the Emergency Order you may follow this link:

https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-524801--,00.html

EMS Drug bag Cassette Decontamination

The latest recommendation from the hospital Infection Control is to consider all EMS cassettes entering the facility **as contaminated**. The updated procedure for cassette exchange will be:

1. Use cleaning supplies provided by the hospital.
2. Wipe down the outside of the drug bag cassette and all of the contents inside the cassette prior to exchanging at the receiving facility.
3. If you set down the cassette inside the hospital the EMS provider will wipe down the location(s).
4. Pharmacies will be putting items which cannot be easily cleaned into plastic baggies which can be wiped down.

Limited sanitizing supplies

Region 6 Medical Coordination Center has a limited supply of sanitary wipes and hand sanitizer available on a first requested, first served basis to interested partners between the hours of 10AM and 5PM until exhausted. The hand sanitizer is available in ½ gallon quantities (bring your own container).

Those interested please go to the Region 6 website and submit a request <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5522547/Region-6-Supply-Request>

Telehealth

The latest. During the Regional EMS agency, provider and MCA conference call the participants were updated on the current progress of implementing telemedicine in response to COVID-19. At this time each MCA has agreed that in the region e-Bridge will be used as the video conferencing piece and EMTrack as the notification piece of the process. From there each MCA is working both within their jurisdiction and regionally to assess the best way to roll it and more importantly when it will be rolled out in their area. If you have specific questions please feel free to reach out and we can address your specific questions.

COVID+ EMTrack

Please review yesterday's update on how COVID positive patients should be documented in EMTrack.

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Meter Dose Inhalers (MDI's)

Just a general reminder for all EMS providers to bring the patient's MDI's with them to the hospital.

PPE – change to surgical mask usage

There is no change to yesterday's message of encouraging EMS personnel don at least a surgical mask while on duty, responding to calls, and in public to continue to reduce potential exposures to our first responder community. However, we want to make sure that we were sending a consistent message. We should all be in "Extreme Conservation Mode" when using PPE. Below are links to both the State of Michigan and the CDC's guidance documents.

[MDHHS PPE Optimization Guidance](#)

[CDC PPE Decontamination](#)

By following these guidance documents, or your agency's guidance, it allows for multiple reuse of PPE by the EMS providers as long as they do not become soiled or torn.

It is also still suggested that all patients have a surgical mask placed over their mouth and nose as soon as reasonably possible to further prevent the chance of exposures. This change is also being rolled out at several of our hospitals throughout the region where the expectation that **all** patients will have a surgical mask in place prior to entering the facility.

We are working to increase the availability of all PPE, especially surgical masks with this change, for all responders. **Follow your local MCA guidance.**

PPE – Urgent needs

If there is an urgent need for PPE, facilities and agencies should reach out to the R6MCC – 855-734-6622 to explain the circumstances and the need.

If you are in need of additional PPE, please submit a request to www.miregion6.org/requests .

State of Michigan EMS PPE Survey

As this process continues to evolve, here is the latest. The state reporting form is being redesigned and a new version is still expected to post before this week's Sunday deadline. If you are having difficulties in logging into EMResource please reach out to either your MCA or the Region to assist you.

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Public Health State Information – COVID

Region 6 Public Health Update as of April 8th, 2020 as 0900:

Dori Peters, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Public Health Update (Regional)

- 355 COVID-19 cases in Region 6 (increase of 34 since 4/7)
 - Kent = 194
 - Ottawa = 53
 - Muskegon = 42
 - Isabella = 22
 - Montcalm = 16
 - Ionia = 9
 - Mecosta = 7
 - Osceola = 3
 - Newaygo = 3
 - Oceana = 3
 - Clare = 2
 - Mason = 1
 - Lake = 0
- 17 COVID-19 deaths in Region 6 (increase of 4 since 4/7)
 - Kent = 7 (two additional – both females in 70s)
 - Muskegon = 4
 - Isabella = 2
 - Ionia = 1 (first death – male in 70s)
 - Mecosta = 1
 - Montcalm = 1 (first death – elderly male)
 - Oceana = 1
- MDHHS updates [statewide numbers](#) on their website at 1500 daily. Local health departments are updating their county case counts sooner on their respective websites.
- MDHHS issued updated guidance for evaluation and testing which took effect Wednesday, April 08 at 8:00 AM (memo attached).

Emergency Management Update:

No new information. The address to the request form is

<https://www.miregion6.org/emergencyequipmentrequestform.html>

More information will follow on how items are received and distributed.

Regional Long-Term Care/Community Health Partners

Wash your hands, wear proper PPE, maintain social distancing and work with facility staff to meet their requirements. Regional partners are working on best practice checklists to share with other long-term care agencies with positive patients.



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Region 6 Healthcare Coalition

SNS PPE supplies received are being distributed. If you are in need of additional PPE, please submit a request to www.miregion6.org/requests .

Additional Information:

We would also suggest that you regularly check the following locations to keep abreast of future developments:

CDC Coronavirus (general information): click [here](#)

MDHHS COVID-19 website: click [here](#)

Kent County Health Department COVID-19 website: click [here](#)

Ottawa County Health Department: click [here](#)

John Hopkins worldwide status report: click [here](#)

Please note that this update is an attempt to keep providers up-to-date and does not imply a formal policy or procedure except where expressly stated. While we are striving for 100% accuracy, things are changing very quickly. We ask for your patience.

Thank you all for all you do! BE SAFE!