



**NORTHWEST
COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES
SYSTEM**

Northwest Community Hospital
EMS offices (Behavioral Health/901 Kirchoff Center)
800 W. Central
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Phone: 847-618-4480
Fax: 847-618-4489

Date: July 1, 2020
To: All System members
From: Matthew T. Jordan, MD, FACEP EMS Medical Director
Connie J. Mattera, MS, RN, PM EMS Administrative Director
RE: **EMS Covid-19 and Education updates**

System Memo: #394

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE IMMEDIATELY
We continue operating under a state of CONTINGENCY CAPACITY

- With the Governor opening us to Phase 4 in the Restore Illinois plan, we have reached a period where **some of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic may be lifted** (even if only temporarily). **See below for changes.**
- We are **expecting a second wave of influenza/COVID-19 patients this fall and winter**, and encourage all EMS agencies to remain vigilant; maintain physical distancing, wear appropriate PPE on all calls, perform frequent hand hygiene and prepare with increased inventories of stockpiled PPE.
- We continue to ask all our System members to stay informed of national, state and System standards and guidelines so we and our patients are protected and best served.

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1. **Version 4 of the COVID-19 Playbook plus an updated COVID-19 SOP** issued today. **Major points:**
 - Given that many patients are asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19; **all persons should be suspected of being infected with COVID-19 unless they've had a recent negative test. Use PPE precautions on all patients.**
 - CDC updated multiple resources including risk factors for severe illness, definitions of exposures, testing recommendations, and guidelines for work restrictions. All referenced in updated Playbook.
 - **Nebulizer treatments and CPAP reinstated** for those with low probability of having COVID-19 and clearly requiring those interventions based on PMH and current clinical presentation. (See COVID-19 SOP).
If initiated, all EMS personnel in direct pt contact **must add a fit-tested N95 mask to their PPE.**
Inform OLMC before arrival if either treatment is initiated in the field. Hospitals may ask EMS to discontinue therapy when transferring the patient from the ambulance into the hospital to reduce the chance of environmental contamination. Disinfect ambulance per procedure in COVID-19 Playbook.
 - **Heads up CPR trial reinstated** if using device protective coverings.
2. **Drug and Supply List and Procedure Manual Updated:**
 - **Added: Sapphire Infusion System** as OPTIONAL equipment that may be purchased and maintained by EMS Agencies after appropriate education and competency measurement of all ALS personnel. See procedure manual for step by step instructions.
 - **Deleted: External Jugular Vein IVs.** This procedure is painful and poses a higher risk than other approaches. It was made somewhat obsolete by the widespread implementation of IOs and is no longer an approved skill in our System. It is not mentioned in the current SOP. PMs are no longer required to maintain competency on it in our System.
3. **DICO List updated** – see System website
4. **System Directory updated:** Our dear friend and valued colleague **Georgene Fabsits** is retiring on July 10th after 40 years as EMS Coordinator at ABMC. **THANK YOU for a lifetime of exceptional service - you will be missed!** She will be succeeded by John Larsen and we welcome him to the EMS family!
5. **Policy Manual Updated:** Final edition of **E1 Emotional Illness and Behavioral Emergencies Policy** issued and posted with current IDPH Petition form IL462-2005 (R-04-18). Info covered in March/June CE classes.
6. **Controlled Substance Oversight:** All EMS Agencies are reminded to carefully adhere to System policy regarding Controlled Substance access, storage, administration, restocking, documentation and daily counts/monitoring. The Controlled Substance Log is under review to improve its capacity to note daily changes.

7. Provisional Paramedics – Meeting graduation requirements this year

- See Education Section of Playbook for details on Capstone experience & graduation requirements.
- See also the attached side by side **comparison table** showing previous against current requirements for the Field Capstone Experience and completion of Appendix G for each student this year.

8. **Continuing Education:** See COVID-19 Playbook (p.34) for July dates and times for live streaming classes. Classes may be done live in some agencies maintaining PPE and physical distancing rules. Topic: Seizures and Stroke plus Dr. Jordan videos. Aug CE will be blended (most live, some virtual). Plan: Sept classes all live.

CE hours: July 19-June 20 CE hours due July 31, 2020.



From all of us at the Resource Hospital, **THANK YOU** for your continued service to your communities and the people to whom we are called to help in so many ways. **You've made a critical difference in their moments of pain, fear, sorrow, illness, trauma, loneliness and despair.**

When we think of our 4 Freedoms, let's celebrate the fact that despite our differences and the many ways in which we've fallen short of the ideals to which we aspire, our better angels call us to unity, reconciliation, and advocacy for all and especially the underserved, disadvantaged, oppressed, and voiceless, without malice or bias...*Everything that EMS stands for every day!*

The NWC EMSS Office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd. If something urgently comes up call Connie or Dr. Jordan on our cell phones – listed in the System Directory and we will be happy to assist you.

Please enjoy a safe and joyous 4th of July holiday (*appropriately distanced and protected of course*) with those you love!