



**NORTHWEST
COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES
SYSTEM**

Northwest Community Hospital
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System Memo: #402

Date: January 14, 2022

To: All System members

From: Matthew T. Jordan, MD, FACEP
EMS Medical Director

Connie J. Mattera, MS, RN, PM
EMS Administrative Director

RE: **BREAKING NEWS: Chesney named EMS CE Coord, ambulance specs in new emergency rules clarification, Supreme court vaccination decision applicability to EMS in Illinois, temporary paper PCR approved for use, bypass policy changing again**

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE IMMEDIATELY

We are operating under IDPH COVID-19 Emergency Guidelines and Contingency Capacity

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| <p>Kourtney Chesney named as new CE and SE Coordinator</p> | <p>We are delighted to announce that Kourtney has accepted the position of EMS CE and System Entry Coordinator! She comes to this role with 25 years' experience as a paramedic, Provider EMS Coordinator, preceptor, EMT educator, PM class lab coordinator, and for the past year, an RN, In-station educator, and System Entry educator. Her attention to detail is fabulous, her heart is as wide as her smile, and she is fully competent in every duty of the job. She will maintain her current phone extension (#4488) and email address (KChesney@NCH.org) for an easy transition and continued accessibility. She officially begins her new duties on Tuesday, January 18th and we take this opportunity, once again, to thank Susan Wood for her years of dedicated service to the System. Please contact Kourtney if you have any questions about CE, System entry, or Peer Educator classes. We are posting the job opening today for the educator role Kourtney is vacating, and hope to have another great team member join our EMS family very soon!</p> |
| <p>Ambulance specs</p> | <p>We were rapidly able to get an answer from IDPH yesterday, that the newly published emergency rules had a slight error in the section about ambulance specs. Leslee Stein Spencer is getting new rules ready to go to correct the oversight. In the meantime, here is her response to us: <i>"The new rules that we are working on will say the following: Each new vehicle used as an ambulance shall comply with the current criteria established by nationally recognized standards such as National Fire Protection Association, Ground Vehicle Standards for Ambulances, or the Federal Specifications for the Star of Life Ambulance."</i> For those of you urgently trying to spec ambulances in advance of hefty price increases, you are good to go using the KKK specs!</p> |
| <p>Supreme Court decision on vaccine mandates and IDPH response to our question about applicability to EMS here</p> | <p>For those of you that receive Page, Wolfberg, and Wirth messaging, you got the following email yesterday: <i>"CMS Vaccination Mandate: Hospitals and other facilities covered by the rule will now be required to ensure that all employees and "individuals who provide care, treatment or other services" for the facility "under contract or other arrangement" are fully vaccinated or properly meet a religious or medical exemption. While the CMS vaccine does not directly apply to EMS agencies, your agency may soon be asked by these facilities to ensure that EMS agency employees entering those facilities are fully vaccinated from COVID-19 or meet one of the exemptions. PWW believes that this requirement should not apply to EMS agency personnel entering covered facilities for 911 emergency responses. "</i> IDPH was asked for an interpretation from their legal department regarding what this may mean for EMS in Illinois. Here is their response from early this am: <i>"First, this is a legal interpretation that appears to be directed at those who PWW represent. EMS are defined as healthcare workers in our rules and if they are contracted to do work for a hospital such as interfacility transport then that hospital can require vaccination or whatever else they want.</i> <i>Our EMS rules are still in effect and therefore all EMS providers public or private should be vaccinated or tested. Hospitals should however not prevent entry for those bringing patients in to the ED for care. They (hospitals) should rest on the notion that all EMS provider agencies are following the rules of vaccination or testing of their personnel."</i></p> |

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| Temporary Paper PCR | The updated IDPH Emergency EMS and Trauma Center rules allows EMS Systems to create and approve temporary Paper PCRs if crews must leave a hospital prior to posting their final required report as called for in the general EMS Rules. We already had a "Covid-19" paper PCR approved in March of 2020. We've updated that report for current use as the temporary PCR allowed in the emergency rules and it was approved yesterday by the System Advisory Board for immediate use. See Attachment. |
| Bypass policy | Bypass policies will be updated again based on the new emergency rules. Discussing with our Region 9 partners now. Stay tuned... |
| Additional changes to System leaders/educators | <p>We are also saying good bye to Lisa Henson, RN who has served as the HEMSC at Glen Oaks who is taking a new job at another regional hospital. Our thanks to Lisa for all her work in getting ECRNs credentialed at GOMC and contributing to our In-Station program!</p> <p>We are welcoming a new Interim Chief at Itasca. Chief Burke will remain at Wood Dale and John Buckley (jbuckley@itascafd.org) will serve at Itasca. Please see the updated System Directory and org charts.</p> |

If you have any questions on any of these updates, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us:

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