KCEMS

Kent County
Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

KCEMS COVID-19 Update   March 25th, 2020 1730

EMResource

Today we were notified by the State of Michigan that "very" soon all first response organizations will be required to log into a web based system called EMResource to update current staffing available and current PPE supplies. This is a system that hospitals and transport organizations have been using for many years, however, it has never been deployed to this level before. I will be working on a guidance document that will better define what the expectations will be and what is to be included on the *daily check ins*. Please know that we will work together with all of the organizations to minimize the impact to all organizations, but there will be a requirement to ensure the data is accurate and updated.

Change to PPE supplies

The State of Michigan has also updated the supply chain for Fire Department (non-transport EMS) resources for the remainder of this event. Up until this point all PPE requests have gone through the Region 6 Healthcare Coalition, moving forward all Fire Department (non-transport EMS) will need to be requested through the local County Emergency Management Departments.

All hospitals, transport organizations & LTC will continue to go through the Healthcare Coalition. Any questions please feel free to reach out. We would just ask that everyone realizes that this was not instituted by the Healthcare Coalition or the local Emergency Managers – this was specifically done at the direction of the State EOC.

Contamination of Drug Bag System Cassettes & Equipment

Avoiding contamination of the drug bag system cassettes and any equipment is the best approach. However, if a cassette is used on a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient, wipe the cassette down with an antimicrobial wipe and also wipe all the contents inside. If something is grossly contaminated with blood, vomit or other bodily fluids, it should be treated as contaminated and disposed of properly

Cardiac Arrest with COVID

A lot of discussion has occurred around the topic of cardiac arrest management of the COVID positive patient. The state has released a protocol for the management of the COVID arrest, which is being evaluated for adoption and implementation by the Region. For now, if a COVID patient goes into cardiac arrest, the number of people involved in the care should be kept to a minimum. All personnel should wear appropriate PPE, including N-95 masks, and online medical control should be contacted if there is not a prompt response to treatment. Expelled air from the BVM should be directed into a sheet or towel to reduce the aerosolization. If a filter option is available for the exhalation port, it should be utilized.

LTV Ventilators – Filter

EMS personnel transporting COVID (or any respiratory infection) patients using a ventilator (LTV or other) should make certain that it has a HEPA filter attached to the exhalation port to reduce exposure risks.

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Use of Homemade Cloth Facemasks
Several partners have received requests for community members to make homemade masks. This is controversial at best and is not considered best practice, nor recommended practice within our MCA.

If contacted by individuals offering assistance, a thought that may be useful for our responders is to ask them to make gowns that could be laundered in between uses. If interested more information can be found on this topic by following this link:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html

Exposures – Fitness for Work and Return to Work:
We have begun to receive several questions that we do not have all the answers for. The State of Michigan has released new guidance through MDHHS related to return to work clearance and fitness for work criteria. This guidance is intended in the context of sustained community transmission of COVID. Currently our area *has no*t been designated at that level. Therefore, we are encouraging agencies to continue to follow the directions set forth in the current Emergency COVID-19 System Protocol. This is due to our EMS providers moving from very sick patients to very at-risk patients. If you have specific questions please feel free to reach out and we will work together to find the answers to your department's specific situation.

EMS Temporary Licensure
Please review the email that was sent out this morning by the State EMS office with additional clarification.

Emergency Regional System COVID Protocol:
There has been no change from previous update, you may find it in Section 8 System Protocols.

State of Michigan Emergency Telemedicine Protocol
There has been no change from previous update.
We are working with all healthcare systems and transport providers to identify the best practices and mechanisms on how to best roll this out as we continue to augment our system's capabilities.

PSAP & EMD Screening Process:
There has been no change from previous update.

PPE Recommendations:
There has been no change, however, messaging below is still considered relevant.
Due to the current climate it is important to have a high index of suspicion. If you are responding to a patient complaining of respiratory problems please ensure that you have the proper PPR with you and conduct your initial assessment from the recommended distance of at least 6 feet away. If you believe that the patient has the potential to be of risk for COVID-19 immediately don your PPE and then continue with your assessment and care of the patient.

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By taking these steps you will significantly limit your potential exposure risk.

Expired PPE:
There has been no change, however, messaging below is still considered relevant.

Procedures Generating Droplet Precautions:
There has been no change to current droplet precaution processes as previously reported. Please refer to the current COVID Emergency System Protocol for specific guidance (8.52, located in Section 8a on the app).

Hospital Notifications:
There has been no change from previous updates. Please continue to notify ED's by both EMTrack and MedCom reports for ***all screened positive patients regardless of chief complaint***. Reports should include all signs and symptoms that the patients are experiencing.

Exposure Evaluation
We have received several questions regarding how agencies can evaluate if there has been an exposure. This link will take you directly to the CDC's webpage that provides Guidance for risk assessment of HCP with potential exposures: Click here

Hospital Visitations:
There has been no change from previous update.

Patient Follow-ups:
There has been no change from previous update. All confirmed positive patients will have direct follow up to agencies involved.

Required Certification Courses:
There has been no change, however, messaging below is still considered relevant.
Effective immediately KCEMS has suspended recertification requirements of all required certification courses until October 1st, 2020. This includes ACLS, PHTLS, PALS, PEPP, ect. Further information will be forth coming to all agency leadership.
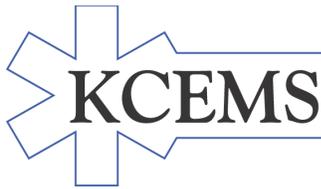
Agency Leadership PPE Information:
There has been no change from previous update.
Please see "Change to PPE Requests" listed above. The link below will only be for transport EMS organizations. All other Life Support organization must go through the local Emergency Management departments. *This still must be done daily to ensure that the requests are processed based on current supplies*. https://www.miregion6.org/emergencyequipmentrequestform.html

Healthcare Systems Updates:
There has been no change from previous updates.

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Current Statistics:

Kent County Data

Updated March 25, 2020

Tests Submitted	257
Pending Tests	111
Presumptive Positive Tests	35
Negative Tests	111
Number of Deaths	1

Ottawa County Statistics
(as of 3:00PM, 03/25/20)

Positive for COVID-19	16

*as supplied by the local Health Departments on their website at 1630 on March 23rd, 2020

State of Michigan data can be found by following the link below:
https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163-520743--,00.html

Additional Information:

No change from previous updates: KCEMS will be planning on updating any information daily by 1700, or as necessary. If your agency has any information, or questions that you would like answered please submit them to us before 1500 each day for inclusion in the update.

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

CDC Coronavirus (general information): https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
MDHHS COVID-19 website: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus
Kent County Health Department COVID-19 website: https://www.accesskent.com/Health/coronavirus.htm
Ottawa County Health Department: https://www.miottawa.org/Health/OCHD/coronavirus.htm
John Hopkins worldwide status report:
https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6