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MEMORANDUM

State Designated Medical Control Authority Representing

Aero Med
Ada Twp Fire Dept
Algoma Twp Fire Dept
Alpine Twp Fire Dept
Altacor
Alto Fire Dept
American Medical Response
Byron Twp Fire Dept
Caledonia Twp Fire Dept
Cannon Twp Fire Dept
Cascade Twp Fire Dept
Cedar Springs Fire Dept
Chester Twp Fire Dept
Courtland Fire Dept
Cutlerville Fire Dept
Dutton Fire Dept
East Grand Rapids Dept
of Public Safety
Gerald R. Ford International Airport
Grand Rapids Fire Dept
Grand Rapids Twp Fire Dept
Grandville Fire Dept
Grattan Twp Fire Dept
Kent City Fire Dept
Kentwood Fire Dept
Life EMS Ambulance
Lowell Fire Dept
Mercy Health Saint Mary's
Metro Health Hospital
Oakfield Twp Fire Dept
Plainfield Twp Fire Dept
Rockford Ambulance Service
Rockford Fire Dept
Sand Lake Fire Dept
Solon Twp Fire Dept
Sparta Fire Dept
Spectrum Health
Spencer Fire Dept
Walker Fire Dept
Walker Police Dept
Wright-Tallmadge Twp Fire Dept
Wyoming Fire Dept

DATE: December 9th, 2020
TO: All Prehospital Providers
FROM: Dr. Todd Chassee, MD, FACEP
SUBJ: Updated Culture of Safety & PPE Compliance

Background

Our area continues to see an increase in confirmed COVID-19 since the time the original Culture of Safety and PPE memo was published. Unfortunately, we continue to have several documented non-compliance with current PPE standards. Since November 1st, KCEMS has investigated 8 cases and issued 11 Orders of Disciplinary Action. Additionally, there continues to be multiple reports that have not been attributed to a specific individual or crew.

Therefore, it is apparent that there is still a gap in the understanding by some KCEMS EMS providers and the current PPE expectations.

Intent

The intent of this memo is to provide additional clarification to all EMS providers on the current expectations of PPE usage and how all providers should assist in reducing protocol violations which is consistent with the current version of the Regional Emergency COVID-19 Protocol (14-04, effective November 24, 2020).

Expectations

The Medical Control Authority expects EMS agencies and personnel to operate with a Culture of Safety. This includes ensuring that every responder, and every responder they are in contact with, are wearing the correct level of PPE per current MCA protocol:

- As contained in the Emergency COVID-19 protocol (14.04), all prehospital providers are to wear a minimum of eye protection, surgical masks, and gloves on **all scenes**.
- While responders are caring for all patients a minimum of **eye protection, N95 or higher respirators, and gloves** are to be donned prior to making patient contact.
- While responders are caring for patients who are suspected or are confirmed positive **gowns** are to be donned prior to making patient contact, or as soon as the information about the patient is available.
- If responders are caring for a patient who is/will be receiving an aerosolized procedure or being resuscitated, **gowns** are also required prior to patient contact.
- All patients are to have a surgical mask placed over their mouth and nose as soon as possible to reduce transmission risks and prior to entering any healthcare facility.

If any provider, or agency, in the system has questions or concerns please reach out to Lance or myself to begin a conversation. Thank you for your diligence and assistance in protecting ourselves, our families, other fellow responders.