



The EHSF would like to remind EMS agencies the Department of Health is the lead regarding information about the Coronavirus. The EHSF will continue to disseminate information provided by the Bureau of EMS for EMS agencies as quickly as possible. Information and guidance are changing rapidly.

## Regional Status

As of the time this document was written (Monday, 04/13/2020 at 1830 hours), there are 24,199 confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout Pennsylvania and 524 reported deaths. Please know the number of cases can change frequently.

County	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Adams	56	1
Cumberland	122	3
Dauphin	240	4
Franklin	66	0
Lancaster	828	24
Lebanon	284	2
Perry	17	1
York	331	3
<b>EHSF Total</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Pennsylvania Total</b>	<b>24,199</b>	<b>524</b>

You can monitor the coronavirus cases in Pennsylvania at this link:  
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

You can also monitor the Hospital Preparedness Dashboard at this link:  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/85054b06472e4208b02285b8557f24cf>

## Updates from the Governor's Office/Department of Health:

Continue practicing social distancing.

Non-essential businesses will remain closed indefinitely.

A stay at home order is in effect for all counties in Pennsylvania.

General public is requested to wear a mask when leaving their homes.

## Updates from the Bureau of EMS

Here is the link to a listing of EMS Information Bulletins (EMSIBs): <https://www.ehsf.org/ems-information-bulletins/>.

- **Previous EMSIBs**
  - o EMSIB 2020-01 Novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV



- EMSIB 2020-02 Infection Control
  - EMSIB 2020-06 Protocol and Policy Updates Related to COVID-19
  - EMSIB 2020-07 Alternate Pathway for Psychomotor Testing
  - EMSIB 2020-08 Issued Extension to EMS Certification Expiration Dates
  - EMSIB 2020-09 Out of State Licensed EMS Agencies
  - EMSIB 2020-10 EMS Providers Obtaining Nasopharyngeal Swabs
  - EMSIB 2020-11 Level I EMS Staffing Exceptions
  - EMSIB 2020-12 PCR Data Collection for Exemptions Outlined in EMSIB 2020-11
  - EMSIB 2020-13 Alternatives to Nebulized Bronchodilators During COVID-2019
  - EMSIB 2020-14 COVID-19 Lapse of Registration Regulatory Exception
  - EMSIB 2020-15 Signatures on Transfer of Care Forms
  - EMSIB 2020-16 PPE Reminders
  - EMSIB 2020-17 Temporary Statewide BLS Non-Transport of Patients with Suspected COVID-19
- **New EMSIBs**
- EMSIB 2020-18 Cardiac Arrest Treatment by EMS of a Patient with Suspected COVID-19

#### **EMSIB 2020-18 Cardiac Arrest Treatment by EMS of a Patient with Suspected COVID-19**

The Bureau of EMS released an EMSIB with best practices for cardiac arrest patients with suspected COVID-19. The EMSIB is attached to the e-mail sent with this document and available on the EHSF website.

## **N95 Mask Boxes**

The EHSF learned a new strategy for storage of N95 masks for EMS providers. Berks County purchased cardboard, hamburger boxes from their local Restaurant Store. They purchased 500 boxes for \$55 and distributed across the agencies within the county.

The EHSF secured a limited quantity of cardboard boxes for EMS agencies within our region. Each county EMA office received these boxes and will distribute to EMS agencies by request. If you would like the mask boxes, please contact your local EMA office.

- The N95 mask will “snuggly” fit within the non-plastic box.
- The N95 mask should be placed face down (outside of the N95 mask against the bottom of the box).
  - This will eliminate pathogens on the container touching the inside of the mask.
- The straps can be wrapped around the lid to be on the outside of the box to avoid touching the outside of the mask where pathogens may remain.
- Ideally, the mask would be decontaminated before placing in the box.



## Ambulance Decontamination and AeroClave Request

The EHSF is providing simple guidance on how to decontaminate an ambulance and request the AeroClave resource.

EMS providers should know the proper steps to decontaminate the ambulance after transporting a patient with suspected COVID-19. The EHSF developed a single-page instruction guide.

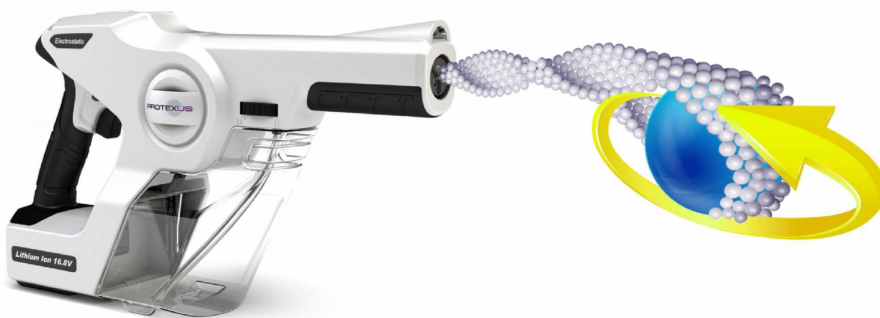
If an EMS agency decides, based on a risk analysis, their primary decontamination was not adequate to allow the unit to be placed back in service, then the AeroClave can be requested through the EHSF. The AeroClave is not a primary disinfection tool and is only available to augment existing cleaning processes. The EHSF developed an information sheet regarding the AeroClave request.

## Decontamination Tools

The EHSF learned of a reasonably priced tool available for purchase to decontaminate an ambulance.

If your EMS agency would be interested in this tool, you can learn more information at the link for Evaclean Protexus Cordless Electrostatic Sprayer using Purtabs disinfectant. <https://evaclean.com/next-generation-infection-control-solutions>

If you would like to order the tool, you can contact Peter Annick at Hillyard, Inc. via e-mail, [PAnnick@Hillyard.com](mailto:PAnnick@Hillyard.com).





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## Thermometer Update

The EHSF is still awaiting the shipment of the infrared thermometers for transporting units. Once the EHSF receives the shipment, Matt Kratz will contact the EMS agencies with the distribution plan.

## Logo Contest Winner

The EHSF would like to congratulate Zachary Gibbons for his winning submission for the 2020 EMS Logo/Motto Contest. We hope his talent to create a logo helps bring solidarity among the EMS and healthcare community as we conquer to the COVID-19 pandemic together!



## National Telecommunicators Week

April 12-18, 2020 is National Telecommunicators Week. The EHSF would like to say thank you to the dispatchers. They are an important and special part of the EMS system.





## Regional EMS Agency Conference Call Schedule

County	Weekday	Time	Call In Information
Adams	Thursday	1400	571-317-3122 Access Code: 888-434-445
Cumberland	Wednesday	1400	571-317-3122 Access Code: 888-434-445
Dauphin	Wednesday	0900	571-317-3122 Access Code: 888-434-445
Franklin	Thursday	1400	571-317-3122 Access Code: 888-434-445
Lancaster	Friday	1000	Provided through Lancaster County EMS Council
Lebanon	Wednesday	0900	571-317-3122 Access Code: 888-434-445
Perry	Wednesday	1400	571-317-3122 Access Code: 888-434-445
York	Thursday	0900	571-317-3122 Access Code: 888-434-445

If you are unable to attend your specific counties call, you are welcome to join another county's call. However, local information provided by the EMA, PSAP, and hospitals may be missed.

### EHSF Activities to Date

- Conference Calls:
  - o Medical Command Facility Directors
  - o County Council Presidents
  - o SCTF
  - o EMS County Council Meetings
  - o Regional 9-1-1 Centers (PSAPs)
  - o Dr. Alvin Wang Regional Medical Director, Montgomery County EMS Council
  - o EMS Agencies
- Finalized Regional COOP Plan Revisions
  - o Prepares the region to request exceptions and make provisions if workforce or resources reach critical levels
  - o Sharing plan with necessary stakeholders
  - o Developing documents to request exceptions if needed
- Generated Best Practice Documents for the following:
  - o EMS Operations and General Information
  - o QRS Response Guidance
  - o Fire Services on EMS Incidents
  - o Screening Providers
  - o No Work / Return to Work Eligibility
  - o PPE is Key
- Monitor staffing levels of EMS agencies and PSAPs
- Sent treatment consideration for ALS Protocol change to Bureau of EMS
  - o Currently under consideration



- Developed tool to assist with no transport/treat at home with self-care for influenza-like illness patients
- Developed reporting tool for minimum staffing exceptions

## Communication Pathway

We encourage EMS agency leadership to communicate with the respective County Council President. We will be sharing information to them to share with the EMS agencies. We will also be communicating with them frequently to evaluate the status and needs of each county.

<b>County</b>	<b>County Council President</b>
Adams	Eric Zaney
Cumberland	Duane Nieves
Dauphin	Jason Campbell
Franklin	Doug Bitner
Lancaster	Darrell Fisher
Lebanon	Steve Mrozowski
Perry	Wes Smith
York	Mark Moody

## Helpful Information:

You can learn more about the coronavirus on the CDC's website at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

You can reference documents shared by the EHSF at:

<https://www.ehsf.org/index.php/resource/coronavirus-update>