



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 (Friday, 04/17/2020 at 1900 hours), there are 29,441 confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout Pennsylvania and 756 reported deaths. Please know the number of cases can change frequently.

County	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Adams	70	1
Cumberland	154	4
Dauphin	311	7
Franklin	89	0
Lancaster	1,030	35
Lebanon	424	2
Perry	18	1
York	443	4
<b>EHSF Total</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Pennsylvania Total</b>	<b>24,199</b>	<b>756</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.

An order was signed directing protection for critical workers who are employed at businesses authorized to maintain in-person operations.



## 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**

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

- **New EMSIBs**

- none

## Common Questions

The EHSF would like to provide clarification on the following topics:

### **No Transport of Suspected COVID-19 Patients**

BLS Protocol 932 permits patients with suspected COVID-19 to remain at home without the requirement to contact medical command. The criteria checklist included in the protocol assists EMS providers to identify the types of patients who are appropriate to remain at home and manage their symptoms with self-care. The checklist guides EMS to identify the low risk patients. These patients are between the age of 15 and 60 years, experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, and do not have comorbidity factors (past medical health history). Patients who are younger than 15 or older than 60 years and/or have comorbidity factors should be transported to the emergency department or contact medical command for guidance.

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

The EMSIB 2020-18 is providing guidance for EMS providers when they encounter a patient in cardiac arrest with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. The EMSIB states, “below is a summary of **considerations** for treating cardiac arrest in patients with suspected COVID-19.” Each EMS agency can review this document and consider the guidance provided they wish to place in operations. EMS agencies are encouraged to communicate with their EMS agency medical director.



## ACEP COVID-19 Field Guide

The American College of Emergency Physicians released a COVID-19 Field Guide. You can review the guide at: <https://www.acep.org/corona/covid-19-field-guide/cover-page/>.

## EV License Plate

The EHSF learned PennDot is not issuing EV tags at this time. If you have a new vehicle or need to transfer tags, there are seven known notary locations open in Pennsylvania. One of these notaries is in Mount Joy (Lancaster County). The notary can issue new truck tags. EMS agencies are not required to have an EV plate on their ambulance. However, the EMS agency will have to pay the truck tag free.

## EMS Week

The EHSF is canceling their hosted EMS Week activities for May 2020.

## 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



- Prepares the region to request exceptions and make provisions if workforce or resources reach critical levels
- Sharing plan with necessary stakeholders
- Developing documents to request exceptions if needed
- Generated Best Practice Documents for the following:
  - EMS Operations and General Information
  - QRS Response Guidance
  - Fire Services on EMS Incidents
  - Screening Providers
  - No Work / Return to Work Eligibility
  - PPE is Key
- Monitor staffing levels of EMS agencies and PSAPs
- Sent treatment consideration for ALS Protocol change to Bureau of EMS
  - 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>