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

There are 34,528 confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout Pennsylvania and 1,564 reported deaths.

County	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Adams	91	2
Cumberland	194	6
Dauphin	400	11
Franklin	143	10
Lancaster	1,295	88
Lebanon	525	8
Perry	20	1
York	517	13
EHSF Total	3,185	139
Pennsylvania Total	34,528	756

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

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

You can monitor the confirmed cases on a map at a county level or by zip code at this link:
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bc92e33cfd5d417795f7a7a1a5cb3b1d/

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

A stay at home order is in effect for all counties in Pennsylvania until 08 May 2020.

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

- o EMSIB 2020-10 EMS Providers Obtaining Nasopharyngeal Swabs
- o EMSIB 2020-11 Level I EMS Staffing Exceptions
- o EMSIB 2020-12 PCR Data Collection for Exemptions Outlined in EMSIB 2020-11
- o EMSIB 2020-13 Alternatives to Nebulized Bronchodilators During COVID-2019
- o EMSIB 2020-14 COVID-19 Lapse of Registration Regulatory Exception
- o EMSIB 2020-15 Signatures on Transfer of Care Forms
- o EMSIB 2020-16 PPE Reminders
- o EMSIB 2020-17 Temporary Statewide BLS Non-Transport of Patients with Suspected COVID-19
- o EMSIB 2020-18 Cardiac Arrest Treatment by EMS of a Patient with Suspected COVID-19

- ***New EMSIBs***
  - o none

Eligibility to Return to Work

On 19 April 2020, the PA Department of Health updated their guidance for employee eligibility to return to work for essential workers in Pennsylvania. Attached to the e-mail with this update, EMS agencies will find an updated flowchart.

Basically, even if an EMS provider was exposed to a patient, family member, coworker, or other person who tested positive for COVID-19 or is a person under investigation, they are no longer required to self-quarantine for 14 days as long as symptoms do not appear. Therefore, they can work.

The provider will need to monitor their temperature and symptoms daily. The provider will also need to wear a facemask while in the workplace. If symptoms appear, then the provider cannot work.

Dispatching Update

The EHSF updated the screening tool used by the 9-1-1 centers to no longer question if an individual is in self-quarantine. The 9-1-1 centers will now ask, "are you or anyone on location suspected of or have COVID-19 symptoms?" The dispatcher will also ask questions related to contact with someone with flu-like illness, status as a healthcare worker, and the presence of specific COVID-19 symptoms. If yes is answered to any of the questions, then the dispatcher will tell the EMS crew "universal precautions advise

How to Reduce Exposure to COVID-19 while Working?

The EHSF developed a one-page guidance document to identify steps an EMS provider can take to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 while working. Attached to the e-mail with this update, EMS agencies will find the guidance document.

COVID-19 Data by County Level and Zip Code

The Department of Health released a public website to view COVID-19 cases by county and zip code. The zip code data can be viewed at the following website:

https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bc92e33cfd5d417795f7a7a1a5cb3b1d/

Pearson Vue Testing Availability

The EHSF learned Pearson Vue now has a tool to search for available seats for cognitive EMS exams. EMS candidates who have been attempting to find a test location, can search for a seat prior to paying the exam fee. The candidate will go to: https://home.pearsonvue.com/nremt. They will click on "seat availability" on the right side of the website. Next, they will find an exam by typing the EMS certification level (i.e. EMR, EMT, advanced EMT, or paramedic). After searching and reviewing the testing policies, they will click next. The candidate will enter their address to locate testing centers nearby. A listing of testing centers will display. The candidate can select a testing site, click next, and then search if a seat is open via a calendar. After the candidate finds an available seat, then they can go into their NREMT account, submit payment, obtain their authorization to test, and then schedule the exam. This search tool reduces the risk of candidates paying the nonrefundable exam fee and being unable to locate a test within 90 days.

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:
    - Medical Command Facility Directors
    - County Council Presidents
    - SCTF
    - 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
    - o Reduce Exposure to COVID-19
- Monitor staffing levels of EMS agencies and PSAPs
- Sent treatment consideration for ALS Protocol change to Bureau of EMS
- 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.

County	County Council President
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

ACEP COVID-19 Field Guide:
https://www.acep.org/corona/covid-19-field-guide/cover-page/

AAMC: COVID-19 Clinical Guidance Repository
www.aamc.org/covid19guidance