



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

Based on data from the Department of Health, there are 37,053 confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout Pennsylvania and 1,421 reported deaths. The Department of Health has adjusted their case numbers since yesterday resulting in a decrease total count in some counties.

County	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Adams	95	1
Cumberland	229	7
Dauphin	445	16
Franklin	151	1
Lancaster	1,359	72
Lebanon	544	6
Perry	23	1
York	546	7
EHSF Total	3,392	144
Pennsylvania Total	37,053	1,421

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.

Hospitals are required to report positive COVID-19 results to EMS. See the section below for additional information.

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
 - EMSIB 2020-18 Cardiac Arrest Treatment by EMS of a Patient with Suspected COVID-19
- **New EMSIBs**
- none

Responsibility of Hospitals to Notify First Responders of Confirmed COVID-19 Transport Cases

On 21 April 2020, the PA Department of Health sent a letter to licensed health care facilities identifying they are to promptly notify first responder agencies of patients positive for COVID-19. A first responder agency is EMS, firefighters, and law enforcement. The notification is to occur as soon as possible but not later than 48 hours from the test result. When a first responder agency is notified of a positive case, the agency is responsible for notifying affected employees and volunteers. A copy of this letter is attached

Tips to Reduce Exposure in an Ambulance

The EHSF sent a separate e-mail today with tips to reduce exposure in an ambulance.

After being on a webinar with Dr. Alexander Isakov from Emory University Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response, we learned information about the airflow in the ambulance for extra protection to your EMS providers.

Patient Care Compartment Safety

Dr. Isakov's recommendation for EMS is to **turn on the exhaust fan to high in the patient care compartment**. The Triple K Specification (3.13.4) requires the ventilation system to provide a complete change of ambient air within the patient compartment every two minutes. This means the exhaust fan provides 30 air changes per hour. The ambulance provides a greater exchange than positive and negative pressure rooms within a hospital used for patients in need of airborne infection isolation, which averages 6-12 air changes per hour.



Driver Compartment Safety

Dr. Isakov's additional recommendation for EMS is to **turn off the recirculate air options** and have **the driver wear a N95 respirator or equivalent while driving**. Some ambulances are manufactured to allow the air to recirculate between the patient compartment and driver compartment to more efficiently cool or heat the ambulance. Therefore, even if the patient partition is closed, airborne particulates can still be transferred from the patient care compartment to the driver compartment.

A presentation from Dr. Isakov through an on-demand webinar is available at:

https://event.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1295231&tp_key=f3c48f873b. **This webinar is available for EMS con-ed credits by completing a con-ed by endorsement.**

High Acuity Patients Delaying Treatment

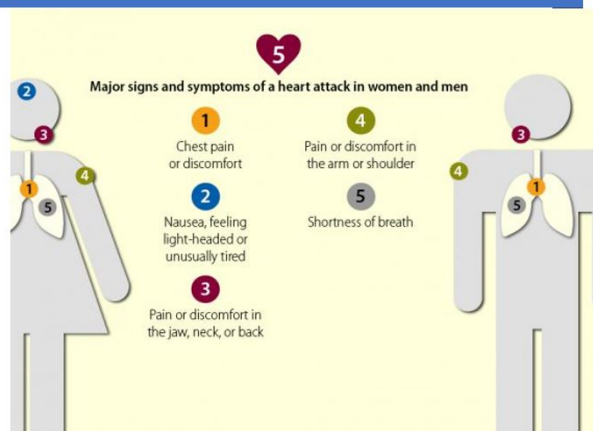
The EHSF identified through regional data a decrease in high acuity patients being transported by EMS during April 2020 compared to April 2019. While trauma volume is expected because of decreased risk of some industry closure and motor vehicle traffic, there is also a volume decrease in suspected STEMI and stroke patients. Additionally, the EHSF saw an increase in cardiac arrest patients.

EMS agencies and hospital partners communicated their observations, which identify patients are hesitant to seek medical care because of the perceived COVID-19 infection risk at healthcare facilities and in ambulances.

The EHSF developed two public service announcements to educate the general public when not to stay at home. EMS agencies are welcome to share these files for stroke and heart attack.

When to NOT "Stay at Home" Call 911 if you suspect you are having a heart attack

- Approximately every 40 seconds someone in the United States suffers a heart attack
- Women are more likely to have subtle symptoms such as unexplained tiredness and nausea / vomiting
- The chances of surviving a heart attack increase with rapid medical intervention






**When to NOT
"Stay at Home"**

Call 911 if you suspect you are having a Stroke


Act F A S T

- Approximately 795,00 people in the United States have a stroke each year
- Every 40 seconds, someone in the United States suffers a Stroke
- Stroke is the 5th leading cause of death in the United States and a major cause of serious disability


SPOT A STROKE™




FACE
Drooping






ARM
Weakness



SPEECH
Difficulty



TIME
to Call 911

StrokeAssociation.org




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
 - 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



**EMERGENCY HEALTH
SERVICES FEDERATION**
YOUR COMMUNITY. OUR COMMITMENT.

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