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 51,845 confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout Pennsylvania and 3,106 reported deaths.

County	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Adams	148	5
Cumberland	386	16
Dauphin	711	29
Franklin	406	9
Lancaster	2,041	145
Lebanon	774	15
Perry	34	1
York	722	11
EHSF Total	5,222	241
Pennsylvania Total	51,845	3,106

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.

The Governor's office released a roadmap to open businesses in the future based on data from counties across the Commonwealth. The plan is to review data and open county-by-county.

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

- o EMSIB 2020-06 Protocol and Policy Updates Related to COVID-19
- o EMSIB 2020-07 Alternate Pathway for Psychomotor Testing
- o EMSIB 2020-08 Issued Extension to EMS Certification Expiration Dates
- o 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
- o EMSIB 2020-19 Revised Interim Guidance for Cardiac Arrest Treatment by EMS of a Patient with Suspected COVID-19

- *New EMSIBs*
  - o None

N95 Mask Decontamination

The Governor's Office provided a press release today regarding process to have N95 masks decontaminated for EMS and healthcare workers. Battelle Memorial Institute was awarded a federal contract to deploy decontamination units across the country. There is a site operational in southeast Pennsylvania with the ability to decontaminate up to 80,000 N95 respirators per day. The company will use a high concentration, vapor phrase hydrogen peroxide. This method can permit a N95 mask to be decontaminated up to 20 times without degrading its performance.

EMS agencies interested in using this resource should follow the content listed below as provided in the press release:

Participating entities will collect worn respirators each day in accordance with an approved procedure, and the PPE will be labeled with a barcoded serial number that will be used for tracking the PPE chain-of-custody throughout the decontamination process. This procedure ensures that the healthcare system receives its own respirators back. (Link to Preparation and Collection of N95)

How to Sign-Up

Step 1: Download the Services Agreement [doc], have your authorized representative sign it and return by email to PPEDecontaminationContracts@battelle.org. We will issue back a countersigned agreement.

Step 2: Once your signed services agreement has been sent, download and complete the Site Locations and POC Information form [xlsx] and return by email to Erica Howat at howate@battelle.org.
Note: Each row of data in the excel sheet should be for a physical location at which you would like to send and receive masks. Example a countywide fire department would want to put in a line for each firehouse so each can send and receive masks directly.

Step 3: 3-digit site codes for each location will be provided to you after the services agreement is executed. The 3-digit codes are to be marked on each N95 respirator you collect. Begin collecting and labeling your N95 respirators. Each N95 respirator must be handled and labeled properly to be decontaminated. Below are specific instructions for details on how to collect, label, and package your respirators for shipment.

      a. Instructions for Healthcare Personnel (mask marking) [pdf]
      b. Instructions for Healthcare Facilities [pdf]
      c. HCP - Fact Sheet [pdf]

    It is VERY IMPORTANT that every N95 is properly labeled and free of any visible soiling such as blood, bodily fluids, and makeup. We cannot decontaminate N95s that do not meet these requirements.

Step 4: When you prepare to send your N95s, you will need to download and fill out the Chain of Custody Form [xlsx]. Please provide one form per shipment.

Other important details about the service are located in the Battelle CCDS™ FAQs.

Battelle will coordinate directly with entities interested in using this important service through a service agreement and registration process. The terms of its federal contract allows for hospitals and other care providers to **access these services at no cost.**

Hospitals, long-term care facilities, first responder organizations, and other care providers interested in pursuing decontamination strategies with Battelle are encouraged to express their interest at https://www.battelle.org/inquiry/offerings-and-services/covid-response?utm_campaign=website&utm_source=SendGrid&utm_medium=email

More information about this decontamination process can be found at Battelle's website.

Thermometer Education

The thermometers have been distributed to EMS agencies with transport capable EMS vehicles. As EMS agencies began to use the non-contact infrared thermometers, some best practices have been identified. EMS providers are encouraged to read the user manual prior to use. The user manual can be found in the box or online at https://www.medsourcelabs.com/product/medsource-infrared-non-

contact-thermometer-ir-100/. Additionally, an instruction sheet created by an EMS agency within our region is attached to this e-mail.

While using a thermometer seems simple, there are steps to take to reduce inaccurate readings.

- Hold the device 1-2 inches from the patient's forehead
- Pull hair away that may be covering the forehead
- Wait 15 minutes between ambient temperature changes to use
- Avoid drafts
- Wait 1 minute between scanning when rescanning the same person

Reporting COVID-19 EMS Agency Status

The EHSF is continuing to encourage EMS agencies to report how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting their agency. The EHSF developed a short reporting tool, which is available on the EHSF website. Go to www.ehsf.org. At the top of the website in the sitewide alert banner, click on "Submit an EMS Agency Status Report".

The reporting form is asking for the number of EMS providers:

- In quarantine from COVID-19
- Tested for COVID-19
- Tested positive for COVID-19
- Hospitalized from COVID-19
- Tested for antibodies for COVID-19
- Tested positive for antibodies from COVID-19

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
    - Regional 9-1-1 Centers (PSAPs)
    - Dr. Alvin Wang Regional Medical Director, Montgomery County EMS Council
    - EMS Agencies
    - Community Paramedicine Committee
- 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
    - 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
- Evaluating high risk facilities (i.e. personal care facilities)

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

Mental Health Resources

Webinar to learn how stress impacts our bodies, strategies to lower stress, and ways leaders can help decrease stress for their front-line providers: https://info.lexipol.com/webinar-coronavirus-stress-management

All Clear Foundation to support first responders and their families:
https://allclearfoundation.org/resources/

National Volunteer Fire Council Fire/EMS Help Line: 1-888-731-FIRE (3473)

Responder REL8 – a peer to peer app providing peer-to-peer chat: https://responderrel8.com/0