



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 52,915 confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout Pennsylvania and 3,416 reported deaths.

County	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Adams	151	5
Cumberland	403	31
Dauphin	735	33
Franklin	423	11
Lancaster	2,070	161
Lebanon	785	16
Perry	34	1
York	740	13
EHSF Total	5,343	271
Pennsylvania Total	52,915	3,416

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/opstdashboard/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.

Governor Wolf signed an executive order to provide civil immunity to health care providers. Additional information is available further in this document.

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
- EMSIB 2020-19 Revised Interim Guidance for Cardiac Arrest Treatment by EMS of a Patient with Suspected COVID-19

- **New EMSIBs**

- EMSIB 2020-20 Use of Out of State EMS Providers

EMSIB 2020-20 Use of Out of State EMS Providers

The Bureau of EMS released out-of-state or National Registry certified EMS providers may practice within Pennsylvania without Pennsylvania EMS certification during the Governor's proclamation of the disaster. This ability will end when the disaster proclamation ends. The EMSIB is attached to the e-mail with this document.

If an EMS agency identifies a provider who holds active certification with another state or National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, they may permit the provider to practice with their EMS agency.

The EMS agency is responsible for the following when permitting an out-of-state provider to practice:

1. The out-of-state or NREMT provider may only perform skills/treatment within the Scope of Practice in which they hold active certification. Therefore, if there is a skill/treatment within the Pennsylvania Scope or EMS Protocols the provider is not trained, then they are not permitted to perform the skill in Pennsylvania.
2. The out-of-state or NREMT provider may only perform skills/treatment within the Pennsylvania Scope of Practice and EMS Protocols. Therefore, if the provider can perform a skill/treatment in their station that is not permitted within the Pennsylvania Scope of Practice or EMS Protocols,



then they are not permitted to perform the skill regardless of their training from another state certification.

3. The EMS agency is responsible for verifying active certification.
 - a. The EMS agency should make a good faith effort to verify certification via certification documents (i.e. certification card) or by verifying status at the NREMT website.
 - i. <https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public/states/state-ems-agencies>
 - ii. www.nremt.org
4. Every level of certification (BLS and ALS providers) must be approved by the EMS agency medical director prior to practicing with the EMS agency.
5. The out-of-state provider will be identified on the PCR as a provider by listing their name and using “OOS” as the certification number.
6. This guidance is only when an out-of-state provider is operating with a Pennsylvania licensed EMS agency and does not apply to out-of-state providers practicing on an out-of-state licensed agency.

PPE Reuse Documentation

When a provider is documenting the use of PPE in the PCR, such as a N95 mask, the following should be considered:

1. New
 - a. The provider should select the new option when the N95 is brand new/being used for the first time.
 - b. The provider should not select the new option when the N95 has been decontaminated from a previous use.
2. Reuse
 - a. The provider should select the reuse option when the N95 has once been used and is being used again. This is regardless if the N95 has been properly decontaminated or is being reused between patients.

Cloth Facemask Donation

The EHSF learned Highmark Health and Allegheny Health Network is donating non-branded, cloth facemasks for providers within the EHSF region. The masks are not intended to be worn as PPE for airway protection. However, providers can wear them while at the station or over the N95 to protect the respirator. When the EHSF receives the shipment, distribution information will be provided to the EMS agencies.

Civil Immunity for Health Care Providers

Governor Wolf signed an executive order to provide civil immunity to health care providers. The press release provides, “Today, Governor Tom Wolf signed an executive order to afford health care practitioners protection against liability for good faith actions taken in response to the call to supplement the health care provider workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic.” The full executive



order can be found at: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/20200506-GOV-health-care-professionals-protection-order-COVID-19.pdf>.

The executive order identifies the following:

- Grants immunity to any individual who holds a license, certificate, registration or certification to practice a health care profession or occupation in Pennsylvania and who is engaged in providing COVID-19 medical and health treatment or services during the COVID- 19 disaster emergency response. Immunity does not extend to acts or omissions that constitute a crime, gross negligence, or fraud, malice, or other willful misconduct;
- Extends immunity to those medical professionals in Pennsylvania that provide services in any health care facility as defined by the Health Care Facilities Act, as well as any nursing facility, personal care home, assisted living facility or any alternate care site, community-based testing site or non-congregate care facility used for the purpose of conducting emergency services activities or the provision of disaster services activities related to the Commonwealth's COVID-19 disaster emergency response;
- Affirms immunity for any person, organization or authority allowing real estate or other premises used for emergency services without compensation in the case of death, injury, or loss or damage to the property of any person who is on the premises for the purpose of those emergency services; and
- Suspends or removes a host of regulatory barriers that would otherwise impede or prevent out-of-state, retired or other qualified practitioners from providing services where needed in the Commonwealth.

EMS Education/Certification Updates

The EHSF learned the Governor is permitting EMS education to continue beginning 08 May 2020 throughout the Commonwealth regardless of the county's stay-at-home and closure orders. Each program must provide ongoing social distancing, universal masking, and other public health guidance. EMS educational institutes are not mandated to offer EMS certification classes, rather they are permitted if desired.

While certification classes are opening and resuming, the EHSF is still not permitted to hold psychomotor exam testing. Currently, a student who successfully completes the certification class can gain Pennsylvania certification by only taking the cognitive exam. The psychomotor exam is waived during the Governor's Disaster Proclamation. However, once the Disaster Proclamation ends, the psychomotor exams will resume and be required for Pennsylvania certification. Therefore, current classes may be required to test the psychomotor exam when the class ends in the future. Again, this is all based on the status of the Governor's Disaster Proclamation.

The EHSF also learned National Registry is working to implement web-based certification exam proctoring. This will permit EMT or AEMT exams to be taken at home with supervision through a



webcam. This option will not be available to paramedic exams. The EHSF will share additional information as learned.

Once the EHSF has information regarding web-based testing, a conference call will be scheduled with the educational institutes across the region.

First Responder Training for Suicide Prevention

The White Deer Run Treatment Network and the Jason Foundation is offering a free webinar to educate first responders about the danger of youth suicide and suicide within the EMS profession. The webinar is scheduled on 18 May 2020 from 1200-1330 hours. To register for the training, go to:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qYMHNSOT5qtBrP00zZEVw.

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
 - o Community Paramedicine Committee
- Finalized Regional COOP Plan Revisions
 - o 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/>



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

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>