



From: Darren Tremblay – Medical Director
To: NLCERA Agencies
Re: COVID-19 Response
Date: March 14, 2020

As you're all aware the spread of COVID 19 is becoming more widespread. I've been in close contact with local, regional, state, and national authorities to continuously monitor this event.

In collaboration with our partner agencies, we've implemented a series of steps to help identify potential COVID-19 patients. These steps are designed to protect EMS providers from potential exposure to the virus while continuing to deliver high quality clinical care to our community.

Please follow this link to a video presentation narrated by PFA EMS Chief Kevin Waters that will detail these procedures as well as provide you with background on COVID-19. ([NLCERA COVID UPDATE 3.12](#)).

On March 3, 2020, Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA) and FC911 implemented modified caller queries to identify the possibility of risk factors for COVID-19. When a caller/patient screens positive for possible COVID-19 exposure, FC911 will air the following radio traffic: "Scene is Code 5A."

UCHealth EMS has secured tools that will allow for the efficient decontamination of the ambulances that have transported a potential COVID-19 patient. We've distributed additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for responders. We've also created a COVID-19 Screening Protocol which will soon go live in the NCPP app. That protocol is also available at the NLCERA page.

To be consistent with this new protocol, there is a modified response procedure that we will use whenever providers are responding to a potential COVID-19 patient. As there is no immediate life threat to the patient, the responding PFA unit will stage upon arrival. When the responding UCH EMS unit arrives on scene, one UCH EMS provider, wearing full PPE (Gloves, eye protection, gown, N95), will initiate patient contact. After the patient has been assessed, additional providers may be called in to assist with patient care. Those providers will do so in full PPE.

This modified response will allow us to preserve our stock of PPE thus safeguarding our ability to continue to protect our providers in the event that manufacturers continue to be unable to meet increased demand for required PPE.

As you know, this situation is developing at a rapid pace. This will require us to be nimble, patient, and responsive as additional information becomes available. Our response will likely evolve as this disease does.

While there is a great deal of attention on COVID-19, it is important that we keep perspective. People will continue to depend on us to treat them when they experience heart attacks, strokes, cardiac arrests, and the whole host of events that drive a person to dial 911.

I've always been impressed by your poise, skill, and dedication. I have every confidence in our ability to meet this challenge, and all the challenges that will come after COVID-19, as we strive to improve the lives of our patients and care for our community.

If you have specific concerns, direct them to your leadership. If you need to contact me, please do so directly (not through group reply.)

Stay safe and healthy,

Dr Darren Tremblay
EMS Medical Director
Emergency Physicians of the Rockies
UCHealth North Region
NLCERA