Georgia OEMS Update – COVID-19

David Newton / Friday, 4/24/2020

DPH
Georgia Department of Public Health

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Agenda

- Operations:
  - o Reminders
  - o COVID-19 Notifications to First Responders
  - o Battelle Decontamination System
  - o Scope of Practice for EMS Personnel
  - o Considerations for Transport/Transfer of COVID-19 Patients
  - o Data Reporting Requirements
  - o EMSMDAC
  - o Considerations for alternative care
  - o Questions on Operations
- Education
  - o New File Review Forms
  - o Questions on Education

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Reminders

- OEMS Updates on our website – www.ems.ga.gov
  - Not all updates are emailed out – some are posted on the OEMS COVID-19 page
- All licensed personnel need to log into LMS and put in their email address
- Agencies must update rosters and Key Personnel
- PPE
  - Requests
  - Conservation methods
  - Agencies should have a plan in place if SNS supplies are not available

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COVID-19 Notifications to First Responders

- Two parts
  - o Prospective
    - Testing data is received by DPH
    - Daily cases are pulled and sent to 911 PSAPs (GEMA/HS)
    - 911 PSAPs create flag for address
    - 911 call at a flagged address
  - o Retrospective
    - Hospitalized Patients vs. Non-hospitalized patients
    - Regional EMS Staff notifications to First Responder Agencies
- For this to work:
  - o All EMS Agencies must submit data on ALL calls
  - o MUST have the correct:
    - Patient First Name
    - Patient Last Name
    - Patient Date of Birth

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Calculation of Onset Date

- Updated to be Specimen Collection Date if reported to DPH – if not then Date of Report.
- Resulted in ~200 delayed notifications – out of 4645 total run notifications (as of 4/23/2020).

Battelle Decontamination System

- You should have received an email regarding this
- https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/oems-covid-19

Battelle Decontamination System (as of 4/13/2020) ⌄

Scope of Practice for EMS Personnel

- https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/protocols-and-scope-practice

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Assessment Skills	Levels	Interpretive Guidelines
3. Specimen Collection		
a. Perform specimen collection for infectious diseases.	E* I A C P	This includes the use of the following specimen collection types: oropharyngeal swab, nasal mid-turbinate swab, anterior nares swab, nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate, saliva collection, and nasal aspirate. This would also include any additional appropriate specimen collection types for diseases related to a declared public health emergency. Prior to performing specimen collections, EMS personnel must be trained on the correct specimen collection procedure and must have approval of a physician. EMTs are not permitted to perform venipuncture for specimen collection.

Considerations for Transfer of COVID-19 Patients

- As EMS transfers of hospitalized COVID-19 positive patients is occurring with more frequency, it may be helpful to employ new strategies that consider PPE shortages and exposure concerns.
- The most important factor is having EMS and hospital agreement on what the transfer process will include. Please communicate with your partners and educate your staff on whatever protocols you establish for your facility or agency.
- A couple of strategies that may be considered include:
  - Have hospital staff transport the patient to a predetermined transfer room within the Emergency Department
    - o This limits EMS contact within the facility, and ensures hospital staff have oversight of the patient until they exit the facility
  - Have EMS meet the patient at the doorway to the patient's room
    - o This limits EMS contact inside the patient's room and ensures hospital staff assist with the patient's transition from the hospital bed to the EMS stretcher

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Nursing Homes

- The relationships on the local level are strongly encouraged therefore please continue to communicate with your NH/LTCFs on a preferred protocol
- If EMS agencies have available EMS stretchers to place at the NH/LTCF:
  - o Leave a stretcher at the facility
  - o The staff at the facility would transfer the patient to that stretcher, cover the patient with a clean sheet, and then bring the patient to the designated meeting place to meet the responding EMS crew.
  - o The patient can then be transferred to the stretcher from the ambulance, and the EMS stretcher that stays at the facility can be decontaminated by the nursing home staff for use when the patient comes back or for another patient.

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Issues with Nursing Homes and Hospitals

- Let your Regional EMS Director know – they will forward up the chain

Data Reporting Requirements

- If you have an EMS agency license in Georgia, you MUST report <u>ALL</u> EMS calls for each unit to GEMSIS Elite
- If the crew comes into contact with the patient at all, the ePCR must include the patient's demographics
- If your EMS agency is also licensed in another state – any call that starts OR ends in Georgia – you must submit to GEMSIS Elite
- Data must be submitted to GEMSIS Elite within 24 hours of call completion
- Medics must be the ones to enter the data into an ePCR system (paper PCRs are not acceptable on a routine basis). See *Emergency Rule 511-9-2-0.2-.20 Emergency Medical Services Rules for COVID-19 Response*
  - *https://dph.georgia.gov/media/58796/download*

EMSMDAC

- EMSMDAC met on Tuesday, 4/21/2020 – with some great discussions about clinical and operational issues and best practices related to COVID-19
- During COVID-19, EMSMDAC will meet monthly – next one on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 11am
- https://gdph.webex.com/gdph/j.php?MTID=m052492df6cff6291bf7236834bd6fcd0

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Considerations for alternative care

- Agencies should consider (**now**, don't wait on this):
  o Nebs vs MDI
  o Cardiac Arrest Response/Care (see latest AHA guidance)
  o Response modes to private residence/NH/LTCF/Hospitals

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COVID-19 CLINICAL ROUNDS

- EMS – Mondays at Noon
- https://echo.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_if65a4x5SHmc92vGAu6BJA

- Sign up to receive the latest news from the NHTSA Office of EMS, including webinars, newsletters and industry updates.
- https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOTNHTSAEMS/subscriber/new

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Questions on Operations?

- Stay healthy and stay safe!

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EMS Education Programs

Information for EMS Initial Education Programs (Updated 4/17/2020) ⌄

Pearson VUE Testing Availability Search (Updated 4/23/2020) ⌄

Information for EMS Initial Education Programs (Updated 4/17/2020)

- For the latest guidance on what modifications to EMS initial education programs are permitted during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, click HERE. This document includes the information shared on the WebEx on Wednesday, 4/15/2020.

- *NOTE: Any cohort graduating on or after 5/1/2020 should use the 2020 version of the EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic File Review Forms, respectively. The new file review forms are required for all cohorts graduating on or after 6/1/2020. These new file review forms are also required for any cohorts that are modifying their requirements due to COVID-19.*

New File Review Forms
https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/ems-forms-and-related-documents

- Changes:
  - Slight change to formatting
  - Excel instead of PDF – fillable- red boxes
  - Must complete one for each student, enter all values (they will total for you), and then print
    - Must be signed in wet ink by student and course coordinator/instructor
    - Is a legal document – do not falsify – ALL numbers must be backed up by evidence of those numbers
  - Scan the signed document into a PDF format, and this will be uploaded into SENDSS (soon to be LMS)
  - Will change slightly after COVID

Forms Related to EMS Initial Education Programs

- T-04-A EMS Education Program Application
- Initial Education File Review Forms - updated 4/22/2020 for COVID-19
  - EMT
  - AEMT
  - Paramedic
- EMT Psychomotor Exam Report
- Psychomotor Exam Skills Verification Sheets - EMR | EMT

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PATIENT ASSESSMENTS BY AGE	OEMS		# COMPLETED				
Age Group	Trad Min	Min. Total	Clinical	Field	Sim.	Trad Total	Total
Peds: Newborn (0-1 month)	1	1				0	0
Peds: Infant (1 mon- <1 yr)	1	1				0	0
Peds: Toddler (1-3yr)	1	1				0	0
Peds: Preschooler (4-5yr)	1	1				0	0
Peds: School age (6-12 yr)	1	1				0	0
Peds: Adolescent (13-17)	1	1				0	0
Peds Total	6	10	0	0	0	0	0
Adult (18-64 yrs)	10	20				0	0
Geriatrics (65+)	5	10				0	0
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS	21	40	0	0	0	0	0

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Questions on Education?

- Stay healthy and stay safe!

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