

03-20-2020 - Agenda & Meeting Notes

- 1. OEMS Updates on the website (www.ems.ga.gov)** – link to OEMS COVID-19 Page is on the top of the page
 - a. COVID-19 info updated daily
 - b. for all first responders
- 2. Make sure all providers have an up to date email address in LMS!**
 - a. Follow directions here (<https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/license-management-system>)
- 3. PPE**
 - a. Requests from agencies
 - i. everyone should have received email (from EMA or regional coalition) with link to form to put in PPE requests
 - b. filled from state warehouse
 - c. regional office will notify you when it's ready to be picked up in your zone/region
 - d. 2 shipments/wk going out from warehouse
 - e. follow CDC guidance for extending expiration dates of PPE (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>)
- 4. Extension of expiration dates**
 - a. See letter here (<https://dph.georgia.gov/ems-personnel-licensure/oems-one-time-extension>)
- 5. Modification of response modes for multi-unit responses**
 - a. if normal response to 911 calls was multi-unit previously, state supports it being tiered or reduced now
 - i. work with medical director to establish local guidelines
 - ii. this also reduces usage of PPE b/c less responders making pt contact and/or entering the scene
- 6. Continuity Plan**
 - a. state wants agencies to have staffing continuity plans in place
 - b. whether it's overtime or otherwise
- 7. EMS Educational Pipeline**
 - a. NREMT extended expiration dates for this year: 3/31 ---> 6/30
 - b. NREMT waived the limit on distance learning hours
 - c. GA does not have limit on distance learning hours
 - d. Pearson Vue sites shut down
 - i. NREMT evaluating how to proceed
 - e. NREMT has stopped all practical exams for initial certifying (but not CBT requirement)
 - f. NR is not "waiving" it but creating a provisional certification
 - g. GA is working to create a provisional licensure
 - i. just can't renew it later
 - ii. state website will say "certified – provisional"
- 8. Questions/Answers (next page)**

Question	Answer
Can skills also be completed thru simulation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 50% of skills can be completed thru simulation • with approval from 1) EMS Program Director, 2) EMS Program Medical Director, 3) EMS Advisory Committee and let Regional Training Coordinator • clinical sites: contact regional program dir to discuss (clinical are still required) • state is fine with students still doing clinicals
who's responsibility is it to provide PPE to student?	review contract/MOU with site for that answer
<p>Can we change the delivery method of our educ (go online/virtual)?</p> <p>Can we change the length of the course (earlier or later end date, compressed material, etc.)?</p>	With approval from 1) EMS Program Director, 2) EMS Program Medical Director, 3) EMS Advisory Committee and let Regional Training Coordinator
Will clinical hour requirements be reduced?	No, but 50% can be via simulation
Can EMT courses meet for labs?	YES, but consider changing delivery method (smaller groups, watching via video in another room, etc.)
Can new classes start?	<p>Yes, just go with new delivery methods (online, etc.)</p> <p>FYI regarding distance learning: Zoom and other platforms are offering unlimited free hours for educ programs</p>
Can licensed MFR agencies refuse to run calls?	NO, especially not if they are requested. But work with transport agency to come up with a plan.
Regarding Exposures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On OEMS website, go to link "Risk assessment for HCP with potential exposure to COVID-19" • Agencies should be working with medical director and on a case by case basis for possible exposures, and regarding quarantine v. not, etc.
How are agencies being notified of possible positive exposures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital should be notifying agencies/crews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CREW MUST LEAVE PAPERWORK in order for hospital to know who ran the call! ○ Transport agency should make sure to include MFRs who ran the call • See OEMS website/emails for the "EMS Quick Report" form to use if your agency doesn't have its own short form • GA OEMS NEW REQUIREMENT: ePCRs must be submitted to GEMSIS within 24 hours of call completion • software vendors have been notified by OEMS • Hospital Hub: Make sure hospitals know they can use this. They apply for access, and are vetted/approved by state. • IMPORTANT: Data entry – hospital destinations codes are incorrect with some agencies/vendors. Check this!
Have any EMS workers tested positive for COVID-19?	unknown unless agency notifies OEMS (Governor addressed this in press conf as well)

Trouble Completing Clinicals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPH: Nurses at SPOCS (specimen point of collection sites) are interested in having students help with assessment and specimen collection! (Clinical Hours) • Contact Regional EMS Director if can't find EMS agency for field internship hours
Are there thoughts on letting non-EMS certified personnel drive EMS vehicle?	OEMS is considering this but nothing yet – we are not to the point of needing this yet
Question about whether or not GA OEMS has protocol for dispatch centers	No - OEMS doesn't regulate dispatch centers
COVID-19 testing?	DPH sent notices to all physicians in GA with guidance on how to refer pt's for testing (so medical directors received this email as well)