



Regional Advisory Update Regarding COVID – 19

Attention: Mountain Lakes REMAC Physicians and EMS Providers

June 3, 2020

Hello all,

It has been more than a month since the last Mountain Lakes COVID update. During that time, infection and admission numbers have markedly improved, and NY state and its hospitals have begun to open services. Although these developments are reassuring, we cannot afford to let down our guard. Because of the large number of asymptomatic carriers, we need to continue to treat all patients, no matter what their presentation, as if they are COVID positive. What follows are some reminder recommendations from the REMAC.

1. Recent guidance from the CDC is for children under 2 years of age to remain unmasked because of airway obstruction risk. ALL other patients should wear a surgical mask at all possible times during care.
2. Drivers should be isolated from patients at all times if possible, thus limiting contamination of the driver's compartment. If it is impossible to isolate the driver, contaminated PPE should be doffed and hand sanitation should be accomplished before re-entering the driver's compartment. No contaminated PPE should be stored or worn in the front of the ambulance at any time by anyone.
3. All EMS providers operating within 6 feet of any patient should wear an N95 mask and eye protection. If N95 supplies are problematic, please refer to the CDC guideline [on mask reuse \(https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html) AND reach out to your county coordinator for assistance.
4. Gowns or coveralls should be worn by all providers within 6 feet of the patient during aerosolizing procedures (including nebulization, CPAP use, suctioning and airway management). Covering garments should be doffed immediately after transfer of care at the hospital.
5. A surgical mask should be placed over any nasal cannula or non rebreather mask (NRB) during use.

6. For guidance on treating respiratory distress patients, please refer to the April 22 REMAC recommendations (attached).

For the safety of ourselves, our colleagues and our families, it is imperative that we do not become careless as time wears on and as the number of morbidly ill COVID patients fluctuates. Please remember, and help your colleagues to remember, that COVID is a devastating disease, capable of creating lifelong illness or death in any one of us or our family members. Please support each other well, and please reach out to me or to your medical director at any time if you need guidance or support. And as always, thank you for being the smart, heroic, compassionate providers that you are.

Be safe.

Sincerely,

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