



Regional Advisory Update Regarding COVID – 19

Distribution: All Mountain Lakes REMAC Physicians and EMS Providers

Date: April 14, 2020

We are becoming aware that there are many asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19 in the community. (These are people who feel well, but have contracted COVID-19 and are actively contagious.) For this reason, we are strongly recommending that all EMS patients wear a surgical mask during their entire interaction with EMS providers, no matter what their complaints are.

Further, we recommend that all EMS providers interacting with patients wear either an N95 or a surgical mask from start to finish on every call. (If you are using a “clean driver” system, your driver’s compartment does not communicate with your patient compartment, and your driver is not interacting with the patient, the driver does not need to be masked.)

N95 masks continue to be *required* for *all* providers in the patient compartment or in the immediate vicinity of the patient during aerosolizing procedures (suctioning, airway management, intubation/supraglottic placement, nebulization, CPAP, BVM use, et cetera).*

We are aware that supplies of masks are limited and that this recommendation will be challenging for some services to meet, however we believe that this action is very important for your safety.

Please contact your county coordinator and your local hospital to talk about supplementation of your mask stores and/or 1:1 replacement of surgical masks.

Please also see the CDC recommendations on mask reuse.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

*(Use of viral filters for BVM or CPAP devices is required if available.)

Thank you for being the smart, heroic, compassionate providers
that you are. Please wear your PPE.

Excellent, up to date, emergency physician driven education and updates regarding COVID-19 assessment and treatment can be found at: <https://covid.emrap.org/>

Excellent, detailed information regarding presentation, assessment, donning and doffing, protective equipment and treatment is available at: <https://emcrit.org/ibcc/covid19/>