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MEMORANDUM

To: Maine EMD Center Directors
From: Melissa Adams on behalf of Maine EMS
Subject: Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Surveillance Tool Implementation
Date: March 3, 2020

Maine EMS, in coordination with the Maine CDC and the Maine State EMS Medical Directors, Matt Sholl, MD, MPH, and Kate Zimmerman, DO, is requesting immediate activation and use of the EID Surveillance Tool by all Maine EMS licensed EMD Centers and personnel.

EMD Centers should perform the most recent Priority Dispatch software updates as soon as possible for access to the most applicable EID Tool (2019-Novel Coronavirus). The updated EID Tool is immediately available on the IAED website for download and use while Centers perform software updates https://prioritydispatch-media.s3.amazonaws.com/prioritydispatch.net/pdf/NAE-EIDS_Tool_v6-0-0.pdf.

The tool shall be implemented with respect to all user agreements with Priority Dispatch and in accordance with the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) published best practice rules and guidance. Note that Rule Three of the EID tool advises users to check the IAED’s website daily for any new updates or dispatch-related advice.

- As Rule Four points out, there are three (3) questions regarding elevated body temperature. It is our guidance that these questions must be asked in order, but a single positive response will eliminate the need to continue asking any remaining elevated body temperature question(s). To clarify, if the response to the first question is yes, there is no need to continue asking the second or third; if the response to the first question is no, the second question will be asked; the same procedure shall be applied for the second and third elevated body temperature questions. This does not apply to the remaining questions regarding breathing, cough, or other respiratory problems – these will always be asked regardless of the response to any other question.
- Rule 5: The EIDS Tool is not launched automatically off any Chief Complaint Protocols at this time. IAED recommends using the EIDS Tool for the following Chief Complaints: Protocol 6 – Breathing Problems and Protocol 26 – Sick Person. Also, the EIDS Tool should be used for other Chief Complaints when the caller offers information that would lead the EMD to suspect a respiratory type illness. However, these designations could change at any time.

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- At this time, we are not including any Medical Director-approved additional questions, but agencies should add the following Medical Director-approved Special Instruction:

“If you have access to a healthcare mask apply it to the patient appropriately to cover their mouth and nose.”
- Please note that the Travel History obtained does not list specific geographical locations, this is intentional as the known infected locations continues to grow; therefore, any travel should be documented and compared to the list of known international areas with sustained (ongoing) transmission. That list is maintained and updated regularly by the U.S. CDC, you can find it online at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.

Based on the responses to the surveillance tool, the following information will be given upon dispatch to responders (or passed from the EMD center to the local dispatch center for dissemination): “Negative U21” (symptoms WITHOUT risk factors); “Positive U21” (symptoms WITH at least one risk factor); or “Inconclusive U21” (unable to gather accurate and/or sufficient information). Responders must be familiarized with these terms and instructed to call in to the EMD Center for more information on any “positive U21” dispatch. An example dispatch would be, “Respond for a 60-year-old female complaining of shortness of breath, conscious and breathing. EMD 6-C-1. Negative U21.”

If there are questions about software, including updates, please use your agency’s IT resources and reach out to Priority Dispatch for assistance. Questions or concerns regarding when or how to use the protocol, including specific protocol questions or instructions, can be directed to the Maine EMS office for clarification or guidance. This document will be updated as needed and will be posted on the Maine EMS website.

Please feel free to reach out to Maine EMS at 207.626.3860 or maine.ems@maine.gov with any additional questions, comments, or concerns.