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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
152 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK  
COMMISSIONER

J. SAM HURLEY  
DIRECTOR

March 15, 2020

Re: Maine EMS Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pneumonia Clinician Guidance

Maine EMS Clinician,

It has come to the attention of Maine EMS that there may be some EMS clinicians that have been exposed to a COVID-19 patient through the course of their regular duties. [Maine CDC](#), Maine EMS, and their respective services are working diligently to provide information, guidance, and support to those individuals by contacting them directly.

Maine EMS would like to continue to emphasize the importance of wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) – gowns, gloves, eye protection, and an N-95 or higher-level respirator – when assessing and treating patients who are possible persons under investigation (PUI). Since January, Maine EMS has released [Clinical Bulletins](#) highlighting the latest guidance as we receive it from the [U.S. CDC](#) and [Maine CDC](#). Emergency medical dispatchers and EMS clinicians should remain diligent in screening patients for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Typical signs and symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. EMS clinicians should use their clinical judgement to assess whether the patient should be considered a PUI based on the clinical and epidemiological information, including but not limited to, exposure to other laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patients and travel. As this virus continues to spread and we begin seeing increased community spread, epidemiological risk factors will become less indicative of positive patients and providers will need to make determinations based on clinical presentations. If you have clinical questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your service-level medical director(s) and/or regional medical director(s). They will be able to provide you with information, resources, and guidance. General questions should be directed to your agency’s leadership who will then connect with our office to help streamline the process for addressing concerns.

Maine EMS will be releasing a model screening policy for all EMS agencies to screen their EMS clinicians and others. All EMS services, including volunteer services, should strongly reinforce with all EMS clinicians that if they have a temperature, cough, or shortness of breath they should NOT be responding to calls for assistance. At this point in time, [Maine CDC](#) will be reaching out to EMS clinicians that have encountered presumptive positive and/or confirmed positive cases. Maine EMS will be providing the state epidemiology team with contact information that is listed in your licensing profile. Please make sure that the information contained within the Maine EMS Licensing Portal is up-to-date or it could delay you being contacted by the epidemiology team.

● **Excellence** ● **Support** ● **Collaboration** ● **Integrity** ●

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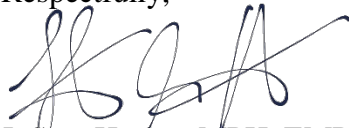
Go to your [eLicensing account](#), log in, click on *My account* and then *Profile*. Then click *Demographics* and check your email and contact information. Correct as needed then click *Save and Continue* to update it.

Maine EMS would like to emphasize the importance of following the guidance that has been issued by our office, [Maine CDC](#), and [U.S. CDC](#) in order to minimize the chance of exposure. Most importantly, we would like to thank you for your continued efforts in responding to this pandemic. As EMS clinicians ourselves, we can imagine the stress that this evolving pandemic is likely causing for you and your family. Maine EMS would encourage all EMS clinicians as well as agencies to revisit employee assistance programs that are in place within your organizations as well as reaching out to the Regional EMS Offices and community organizations that are willing to help during this stressful time. We imagine that our response to this pandemic will likely be extended and it is imperative that we maintain resiliency among our teams.

Please know that Maine EMS continues to support you and your colleagues across the state.

Thank you for all you do for the residents of, and visitors to, the State of Maine.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sam Hurley', written over a faint, illegible background.

J. Sam Hurley, MPH, EMPS, NRP  
Director, Maine EMS