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MEMORANDUM

To: Maine EMD Center Directors and EMDs
From: Melissa Adams, EMD Program Coordinator
Subject: Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) Tool *Cessation*
Date: May 9, 2023

Maine EMS, in coordination with the Maine CDC and the State of Maine EMS Medical Directors, Matt Sholl, MD, MPH, and Kate Zimmerman, DO, authorized activation and use of the EIDS tool by all Maine EMS licensed Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Centers and EMD Personnel on March 3, 2020. Since then, we have seen several revisions to the use of the tool in order to support a measured response by EMS clinicians to all calls for service and ensure the safety of our workforce and the public.

On April 25, 2023, Maine EMS released an operational bulletin declaring “it is safe to consider removing mandatory masking from some patient encounters” that also identifies “certain situations and circumstances where masking remains mandatory.” Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) have an opportunity to identify some of these situations and circumstances during routine call processing and protocol use, and Emergency Telecommunicators (ETCs) have a duty to notify public safety personnel at the time of dispatch, or with updated information during their response, to continue ensuring the safety of our workforce and the public, including:

- **Patients with symptoms of COVID-19, including Acute Respiratory Symptoms, Vomiting, Diarrhea, and/or Fever;**
- **Immunocompromised Patients; and**
- **Known COVID-19 Patients.**

Maine EMS is authorizing EMD Centers to discontinue routine use of the EIDS tool on all medical calls. However, when an EMD identifies one of the circumstances listed above through routine call processing, public safety personnel shall be provided with the relevant information to make informed decisions about their selection of personal protective equipment (PPE). EMD Centers may continue to use the term “Positive U-21” to convey this general message or may use another local standardized process to communicate important information to responders.

When ProQA is integrated with CAD, a dependable method for EMD call-takers to push messaging to the dispatcher (when this role is separate from the call-taker) and to CAD within the ProQA

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workflow is to use the *Urgent note* tool in the toolbar. Free text in the urgent note tool is immediately forwarded to the narrative.



When users do not have a CAD interface, the EMD call-taker may use the *Log comments* tool, with similar effectiveness, but the message is delayed until the EMD enters a new phase of protocol (key questions to PDIs, PDIs to case exit, etc.).



Please contact me at 207.626.3862 or melissa.f.adams@maine.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.