



## BASE STATION PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE (BSPC) MEETING

### Special COVID-19 WebEx

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 | 11:00 am

Minutes/Notes

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS (Kristi Koenig, MD)

- No introductions were made due to time constraints.
- Cases continue to surge locally, county wide, statewide, nationwide, and worldwide.
- The United States reported 73,000 COVID patients hospitalized on Monday November 16, 2020. Some states have more than a 50% positivity; The desire is for the positivity number to be lower than the 50% positivity rate.
- Continue to treat anyone you encounter in the prehospital setting as if they have COVID, it cannot be determine if a person has COVID by sight. COVID- 19 is a very contagious virus that can be spread asymptotically. Take precautions with every single patient.
- COVID fatigue is going on. Be kind to each other; don't succumb to covid fatigue. All things are going to get worse before they get better.
- Good news in the horizon coming with the vaccine and therapeutics.
- Rising cases locally with the seven-day average trend reported on the 16<sup>th</sup> was 4.8%.
- Trends are concerning due to 1,087 cases reported; numbers are at an all-time high at a 9% positivity rate.
- Recent R-effective: (how the virus is spreading) Reported on the 15<sup>th</sup> of 1.21. It is preferable that R-effective number be below 1.0 (to show that the outbreak is being contained). Any small change is to the R effective number is concerning.
- There is wide-spread transmission within our community. There is a 21 to 24-day lag after we see patients for them to be hospitalized, and an ever longer lag until deaths are seen.
- It is being reported that 2 promising vaccines with a 90% percent effectiveness. This does not mean to relax the non-pharmaceutical intervention. It will be a period until a large percentage of the population gets vaccinated. Meanwhile practice the 3 W's: Wash your hands, wear your mask, and walk away.

#### 2. COVID-19 ACTIONS AND UPDATES (Brian Christison)

Frequently Answered Questions (FAQs): The County of San Diego has been keeping in contact with colleagues in Imperial County; they are having a significant surge in patients. Resources are being provided to maintain patients in Imperial County. It is anticipated that these patients will be transferred to San Diego County. The launch is working with EOC to manage as well as other Southern California offices. Reminders: A duty officer contacted the County to find suitable isolation for a first responder that tested positive for COVID. As a reminder the County Public Health has a hotel on standby for these types of cases. This information is placed in the County EMS frequently asked document. Memo was sent out to all EMS agencies and hospital staff regarding off load delay. Concern: adolescent patients are being held outside of ER. This being a safe pause to assure that a bed is ready for the incoming patient. Asking that all hospital take as many steps as necessary to move the patients inside or at least to an area considered an extension of the emergency department. If crews are expected to wait outside the emergency department for an extended period time, they are to contact the EMS duty officer.

#### 3. LEAVE BEHIND NALOXONE (Jaime Pitner)

- This is a national program that California has adopted due to an opioid overdose problem.
- County of San Diego EMS has developed a partnership with the Department of Healthcare Services Naloxone Distribution Project which will allow EMS agencies, first responders, and community organizations

in California to distribute naloxone to those who would benefit following an emergency patient contact.

- The memo was sent out to all EMS agencies. The program is an important component in improving outreach to a vulnerable patient population by increasing opportunities for access to care, treatment, and recovery from opioid addiction.
- EMS agencies that choose to participate in the program, must request approval by sending an email request with a copy of their agency protocol, training materials, plan for deployment, and Quality Assurance Plan to: [EMSNotification.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:EMSNotification.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov). A survey has been sent out seeking data on best practices for opioid response.

#### **4. PROTOCOL TIMELINE UPDATE (Jaime Pitner)**

- Protocol timeline is focusing on protocol review. This process will continue till June 1 with final edits for a roll out scheduled for July 1.
- Passport review occurring in December; a BSPPC review in January finalizing protocols for BSPPC; a summary of changes by the end of March/beginning of April on pediatric and adult changes. These changes will be coordinated with the base station nurses.

#### **5. PEDIATRIC DROWNING STAT (Joshua Smith)**

A PowerPoint presentation was shared with the following information:

- Increase of pediatric drowning during COVID. Data for submersion and drowning from base hospital records. Data is from March through October.
- Compared to 3 years of historical data (2018, 2019, 2020). Data from March through July - a 32% increase for 2019, almost a 50% increase for 2018.
- A County News Story and a Press Release was put together and sent out in August. PSA was able to reach 150,000 people throughout Facebook and Instagram.

#### **6. HEALTH CONNECT (John Ehrhart)**

- EMS/Pulse plus grant roll out update: Image trend development continues to file test and is in the last component of reconcile and are complete with search alert and file.
- Testing with Foriance and Mercy ambulance expecting to roll it out to the County and its participants.
- Aviert Meds is live for surgent and 8 counties that they contract.
- Actively testing alert file for a couple of weeks and will reconcile thereafter.
- WATER is live with Chula Vista Fire Department for search. The remainder of the components will roll afterwards.
- Discussion are still going on with the North Zone WATER participants.
- The standing question with North Zone: Will the hospitals in the region be participating and implementing SAFR?
- Two hospitals are at 21 quarter 1 SAFR install investigation. Others are in review.
- Pulse Grant that is an augment began in December 2020 that will be rolling out the Pulse search and retrieve for all EMS plus participants.
- Enhancements or improvements: Medications are coming through in code form to the hospital sit Will be creating a look up services that will translate back to in scripted text prior to shipping to hospital users. This will be in conjunctions with insuring that the data that flows to the hospital is entirely discreet so hospitals can structure the narrative received from the EMS providers, optimizing history return to medics from search.
- Clinical documents that are returned form HIE have historical information needed. Various methods to solve this problem:
- Reducing the history based on time frames: Historical data will be lost that would be valuable to EMS and ED providers.
- Solutions: 1. Clinical Classification software – basically an aggregation service that allows a reduction of 70k codes to 2 to 400 clinically valuable categories. 2. Hear to reduce value sets – maintained by the national library of medicine and the value set authority - more customize. Maps IC9-IC10 snow bit codes. 3. A partnership between the ED and the paramedic providers and ed role.

## **7. DISASTER COUNCIL (Linda Rosenberg, RN)**

- A pre-plan Earthquake Exercise with COVID was discussed.
- Nominations for a new Chair and Co-Chair.
- 2 Chairs in that Committee: 1. Represents hospitals, 2. Represents nonhospital organizations.
- Discussion of COVID vaccine distribution for SNIF's.
- Planning with the California Hospital association for cold storage of COVID vaccine.
- Sheriff Department discussed their Preparation for civil unrest and will only use OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) gas.

## **8. BHNC REPORT (Christine Wells, RN, MICN)**

- Crews and patients are arriving without masks into the facilities.
- Agencies will receive a report of who is not wearing masks.
- Masks are to routinely be changed out.

## **9. Q&A/COMMENTS**

- Does the County anticipate the data translating to positive hospitalizations?
- Do the previous guidelines to stay at home instead of transport still in place?
- Is the data for pediatric drowning using impression or coding numbers?
- Have bathtub drownings gone up?

## **10. WRAP UP & NEXT MEETING (January 19, 2021)/ADJOURNMENT**

- The meetings will continue virtually in the foreseeable future.
- No meeting in December; dark month.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:47am.