



BASE STATION PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE (BSPC) MEETING

Special COVID-19 WebEx

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 | 11:00 am

AGENDA – SPECIAL MEETING TO BE CHAIRED BY DR. KOENIG

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS (Dr. Koenig)

- No introductions were made due to time constraints.
- The County is using a 3-pronged approach to the strategy for managing the COVID pandemic: 1) flatten the curve 2) increase healthcare system capacity 3) function through an incident command system.
 - 1) Flattening the curve:
 - We are doing very well compared to other places around the country and the world due to the early implementation of our NPIs, such as staying at home except for essential duties. Wearing a face covering or mask if you do have to leave the home. The concern is an uptick of cases coming across the border, particularly the southern border. We are monitoring very closely. We have established a unified command through the City of San Diego which is keeping track of that data.
 - 2) Increasing healthcare system capacity:
 - We have unprecedented mass of increases in our system capacity. Looking at how to distribute those patients if having focalized stresses to the system. Having regular meetings with all hospital CEOs, CoSD Board of Supervisors, a congressman, hospital CMOs and many other stakeholders with high level discussions on how to manage.

2. ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (Brian Christison)

- Public Health Officer Order 3/12/20– social distancing and restricted gatherings of 250 or more, visitor restrictions at medical facilities. PHO Order 3/16/20 & 3/18/20 restricted gatherings of 50 or more then 10 or more and closed recreational facilities such as gyms. PHO Order 3/22/20 amended to close beaches and parks. PHO Order 3/29/20 amended social distancing and required all non-essential workers to stay home, which paralleled with the Governor's further Emergency Declarations and has continued for the last few weeks. Facial coverings are now required for all employees interacting with the public.
- EMS office has worked hard at managing the situation with enhanced metric monitoring through the All Hazard Health Services Capacity Management Plan.
- County nurses deployed to upstaff detention facilities and bolster homeless outreach teams.
- Daily monitoring of bed, ventilator and other medical care capacity.
- Supported a number of logistics requests.
- Delivering more than 1 million pieces of PPE.
- 2-1-1 has received over 80,000 calls; County Nurse Triage line filtered 4800 calls.
- Drive-through testing has been implemented.
- Some paramedics and EMTs began traomed to collect nasal swab samples.
- Hotel space available for isolation and quarantine. More than 1k hotel rooms available.
- Federal Medical Station at Palomar Hospital is underway; Public Health Hotel with medical staff; Convention Center sheltering unsheltered individuals with more than 700 people.
- Alternate Care Site at UCSD dorms is equipped and ready to go when needed.
- Public Health services throughout the county contacted over 1,600 healthcare entities to monitor for capacity and/or potential needs.
- EMS office has issued a number of communications and memos on clarification such as: destination considerations; infectious control management reporting; treatment considerations; non-patient passenger restriction; NBIs option for paramedics; extension of expiration dates for CPR cards to ensure adequate EMS staff is available; assess and refer option; EMS personnel to wear masks when on duty;

clarification of safe EMS handoff; guiding principles for EMS cardiac arrest; FAQs posted on EMS website.

3. JULY 1 PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY (Dr. Koenig)

- Due to the challenges with new policies and protocols, and after evaluation and input from various groups, will defer major protocol updates for one year to remain on cycle and continue along with the early implementation of any COVID critical related protocol changes.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR EMS CARDIAC ARREST MANAGEMENT (Dr. Koenig)

- The Guiding Principles for EMS Cardiac Arrest Management memo was sent to the BSPC group.
- Very complex issue and the approach that we have taken is we have unprecedented excess capacity in our system. Historically low prehospital patient volumes, emergency department volumes, and other capacity metrics as we continue to prepare for a possible surge of patients. Therefore, we are continuing with same protocols for cardiac arrest management.
- Have implemented a lot of strategies to help protect both providers and patients.

Group discussion and questions followed regarding transportations.

5. HCW PROTECTION -PPE AND TESTING (Dr. Koenig/Dr. Tuteur)

- Appreciate what people have done to maintain the NPIs.
- While out in the community, we should be an example and model citizens to our community with wearing a face covering when going out for essential duties.

Testing: (Dr. Tuteur)

- Free drive-thru testing is provided to first responders, emergency workers and healthcare workers.
- Healthcare workers include working in Behavior Health, Residential Treatment Centers, and SNFs.
- If 65+, has pre-existing health conditions, or cannot get tested through their primary provider, can call 2-1-1 and will speak to a nurse to see if they qualify for testing.
- The public can also call 2-1-1 and ask to speak to the Nurse Triage Line.
- Discussed the new guidance from the state which lists the prioritization of testing.
- Testing is done at Rady Children's Hospital.
- Can go through your EOC liaison or can email us directly mcsdcallcenter.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov.

6. BHNC REPORT (Amy Clark)

- Most hospitals are doing the same as far as receiving medics. Volumes are down across all the hospitals.
- Offered hours of online education for MICNs due to the cancellation of classes; will re-evaluate in a month.
- Reminder about early base contact.

7. WRAP UP & NEXT MEETING (TENTATIVE May 19, 2020)/ADJOURNMENT

- Encourage early base contact.
- Need to be aggressive on contact tracing and isolation and quarantine as appropriate, to ensure we don't have any flare-ups.
- EMS welcomes Chief Bill Conover to the team as our Fire EMS Liaison.
- Thanked everyone for their hard work, collaboration and innovations. Keep up the team spirit and good work.