



## BASE STATION PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE (BSPC) MEETING

### Special COVID-19 WebEx

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 | 11:00 am

### AGENDA – SPECIAL MEETING TO BE CHAIRED BY DR. KOENIG

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

- The meeting started with a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Bruce Haynes who recently passed away; he served as the EMS Medical Director from 2006-2016.
- No introductions were made due to time constraints.
- The science is constantly changing.
- Cases passed 31 million worldwide, with more than 966k deaths. Cases spiking in Europe. Within the US, 24 states trending upward in cases; 6 states trending downward.
- 52k new infections yesterday.
- 20 states reported more deaths this week than last.
- 27 states are reporting higher positivity rate.
- Today passed 200k American deaths in the US.
- R-effective dropped down just below 1.
- Expect to see more cases.
- First southern California county by the State's metrics to be in the red zone.
- Outbreak at SDSU with 882 cases, which count towards our numbers.
- Outbreak at federal prison; numbers do not count towards our numbers.
- Pilot program to monitor sewage; one positive at UCSD.
- Voluntary testing at Mexican border; still seeing 80-90k people crossing per day.
- EMS authorization for Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP) for paramedics to assist with flu vaccination and when a COVID vaccine becomes available.
- Changes from the CDC are confusing and not clear.
- Keep wearing PPE for aerosol generating procedures. Keep as much distance from people.
- Watching the vaccines closely; three vaccines in trials; one is paused. Not enough to vaccinate everyone. Will need to have vaccination priority groups.
- Entering flu season. Need to maintain healthcare capacity. Big push to get flu shot this year.
- Concern of mental health of this ongoing pandemic; increased risk of suicide. Be kind and supportive of your colleagues.

#### 2. AHA Awards, Vista Fire and CSA-17 (Kristi Koenig, MD)

- Vista Fire received the AHA Gold Plus award; CSA-17 received the AHA Silver Plus award.

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

Frequently Answered Questions (FAQs) had two revisions; further discussion about using respirator with exhalation valves; return to work criteria; added few new symptoms to health screenings; updates on testing process for both symptomatic and asymptomatic healthcare workers; County Fire developed a rapid turnaround process for symptomatic first responders; added info about antigen testing; added info on mental health resources; pushed info and clarification out to law enforcement partners regarding handling CPR, placing facial coverings; issued extension on CoSD P-801 Response Adjustments Waiver through January 31, 2021; extended the CoSD Assess and Refer Option through January 31, 2021.

#### 4. CHANGES TO PARAMEDIC EDUCATION PROCESS DUE TO COVID (Jason Hums)

- 79 out of 80 students were placed in their field internship with the help from Don Sullivan and his team at AMR and the EMS Chiefs.

- Extra orientation shifts were completed since they did not go to any hospitals this summer.
- Field internship going well.
- At physician level, ask that you speak to your agencies and fire departments; starting new cohorts. In spring will need places for students to do ride-alongs, hospitals to do clinicals, and internships next summer.

## 5. PREHOSPITAL METRICS & TRENDS (Barbara Stepanski)

The following slides and data were shared:

- BHR numbers by month – gradually increasing since April; although lower than previous years.
- Traumatic Injury – gradually increasing since April.
- Cardiac – gradually increasing; slowest improvement.
- STEMI – very low, but seeing faster recovery. September predicted to match up with previous years
- STROKE/CVA/TIA – predicted to reach above September numbers from previous years.
- Cardiac Arrest, Non-Traumatic – saw an increase. Continued pattern from the early COVID months.

## 6. HEALTH CONNECT (Lacey Mendoza)

- Mark Branning has stepped down; John Erhart starting part time October 1.
- Discussed the SAFR Grant/Project
  - AMR meds search piece ready for production on 9/24.
  - Alert and File development is in progress; ready for testing by 10/15.
  - List of agencies for AMR meds; should be week of 10/1.
  - Chula Vista agency for water will be live for surge on 10/1.
  - Alert File and Reconcile on 10/26
  - List of agencies included San Miguel, Chula Vista, AMR, El Cajon, National City, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Imperial Beach, and Bonita.
  - Image Trend search alert for reconcile development is completed. Demo with County of San Diego 9/25. After the demo, the county will schedule a kickoff with Mercy; date TBD.
  - Deadline June 2021.

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

- November Disaster Drill is cancelled.
- Reminder Great Shakeout on 10/15 at 10:15 am. Can sign up on the website.
- CHA Conference – did not attend, but heard was excellent.

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

Thanked everyone for being so flexible over the last six months with all the changes and doing the best for our staff and patients.

## 9. Q&A/COMMENTS

- Data on prehospital providers who contracted COVID? Dr. Tuteur will ask Epidemiology Unit if they can provide the data.
- Discussion on aerosolized generating procedures.
- Data on infections to crews or healthcare personnel from aerosolized procedures?
- Wearing goggles was highly suggested.

## 10. WRAP UP & NEXT MEETING (October 20, 2020)/ADJOURNMENT

- The meetings will continue virtually in the foreseeable future.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:44 am.