



## **BASE STATION PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE (BSPC) MEETING**

### **Special COVID-19 WebEx**

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 | 11:00 am

Minutes/Notes

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

- No introductions were made due to time constraints.
- There is a 3-pronged approach for strategy:
  1. To flatten the curve by utilizing nonpharmaceutical interventions “the 3 W’s”: Wash your hands, wear your mask, and walk away.
  2. To increase the health care system capacity using the three S’s model of surge capacity which are: Staff, stuff, and structure.
  3. To manage the event through an incident command system.
- Curve is flattening but surge is expected to continue for the next few weeks due to the holidays.
- The R-effective is under 1.
- The UK variant (or B.1.1.7) has been identified which seems to be more contagious but not more deadly.
- A greater surge is expected in end of February and peaking in March 2021.
- Implementation of a series of tactics to support an overall strategy of increasing the healthcare system capacity in ongoing.
- Vaccination is important, but even after being vaccinated continue with the 3 W’s: Wash your hands, wear your mask, and walk away.

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

- On December 15, 2020 the County Ambulance Diversion was formalized.
- On December 22, the pediatric trauma patient age was shifted from age 14 to age 18 to allow more trauma patients to be treated at Rady Children’s Hospital, preserving adult ICU space at other facilities. Providers are to work with base to find appropriate destinations for unusual situations.
- December 28, 2020 an abbreviated radio report was introduced. Please refer field crews to the memo located on the County EMS page.
- On December 30, an option to transfer stable patients directly to the ED waiting area was distributed.
- December 31, notification regarding increased oxygen delivery methods for CCT transfers was distributed.
- January 8, 2020 a pediatric patient destination directive was issued that all pediatrics should be transported to Rady’s Children’s Hospital if they are stable for transport.
- On January 14, County EMS requested and received approval for local optional scope of practice for EMTs and AEMTs, as well as our existing local optional scope of practice for paramedics, to deliver intramuscular immunizations. The concept of operation is to allow ALS agencies, particularly those with a large base of EMTs or EMT firefighters, to be the injectors in mass vaccination operations (Opposed to preparing, drawing up, and administering the immunization).
- A patient destination directive for DOD beneficiaries, active duty, dependents, and anyone with Tricare coverage has been halted due to pending military medicine deployments.

#### **3. DATA UPDATES**

##### **A. ICU Capacity Projections (Joshua Smith)**

Power point presentation was shared with the following information:

- County is working with data scientist to do county wide ICU capacity projections
- Total hospital bed projections are for COVID and non-COVID patients.
- It is not projected to reach total number of beds
- ICU Beds are projected to hit capacity.
- Projections end mid-February.

## **B. Cardiac Arrest Data (Barbara Stepanski)**

Power point presentation was shared with the following information:

- Cardiac arrest calls have increased each year.
  - For 2020 this was a 22.2% increase over 2019.
- December and January historically have more cardiac arrest incidents.
- Cardiac arrest patients are transported more often than not. This trend was reversed for only one month prior to the COVID-19 pandemic; February 2018. Since the start of the pandemic there have been 6 months that this trend was reversed: April, May, June, September, November and December (all 2020).
- In 2020, 90% of cardiac arrest patients pronounced at scene had resuscitation efforts attempted, this was 92% in 2018 and 92.7% in 2019.
- From 2019 to 2020, those aged 19-41 had the largest increase in number of cardiac arrest incidents.
- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, over 12% of the cardiac arrest patients have been suspected to have or have been exposed to the virus; December and April were highest with 21.4% and 21.3%, respectively. So far for January 2021, this is 30.3%.

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

- Protocol review is on our timeline. A summary of all changes will be ready for review in early April and will be provided to the BHNC's to begin preparing educational materials.

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

- Prudence August is now the interim Executive Director.
- SAFR EMS ETCR development is now complete.
- All programs being evaluated due to the transition process.

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

- Crews are to turn in completed exposure form reports.

## **7. WRAP UP & NEXT MEETING (February 16, 2021)/ADJOURNMENT**

- The meetings will continue virtually in the foreseeable future.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:36am.