



**BASE STATION PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE (BSPC) AND PREHOSPITAL AUDIT COMMITTEE (PAC)  
MEETINGS  
Special COVID-19 WebEx**

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 | 11:00 am  
Minutes/Notes

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

- No introductions were made due to time constraints
- A detailed report on the current COVID situation status was provided.
- Good news is that we have seen virtually no flu this season.

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

- A notification to all credentialed EMS providers in the county to maintain their protective measures including a recommendation to upgrade masks by CDC was distributed on January 23, 2021.
  - Simple cloth facial coverings may not be as effective particularly against some of the new variants
  - Per Dr. Koenig, upgrade to medical-grade masks when possible
- Change in Quarantine Order. This will be reflected in our frequently asked questions by Thursday.
  - If you have an individual that is fully vaccinated, (both rounds of vaccination), and it's been at least 2 weeks since the second vaccine, and the individual remains asymptomatic they do not need to be quarantined following a contact with a potential COVID patient.
  - This window currently is for three months from that last vaccination. It is a short timeframe until there is more confidence in vaccine effectiveness against spread in the general community, particularly the new variants.
  - The new order can be found on the coronavirus-sd.com webpage
- County EMS upstaffed the EMS Duty Officer program (from one duty officer to three) during the recent surge. The Duty Officer fielded about 10 times as many calls for intervention between December and January. The need for Duty Officer notification has mostly returned to normal levels, and County EMS is back to one 24/7 duty officer with a scheduled back up, if needed.

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

- (Dr. Koenig) Reminder about this option. Seeing a lot more opioid overdoses, a problem compounded with street drug Fentanyl contamination.
- This is an important optional initiative for ALS to have the ability to implement a Leave Behind Naloxone program.
  - This is only for patients who refuse transport to the hospital.
  - It allows EMS responders to dispense a nasal spray Naloxone along with instructions and education to the patient, family members or other household members.
  - It is very easy to do and we think it can potentially save lives.
- Referring to the Nov 10<sup>th</sup> protocol memorandum that Dr. Koenig distributed, if you have not already discussed this optional program, we would like to remind our ALS agencies of this program. It is a lifesaving intervention and is another public health emergency that has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**4. PROTOCOL UPDATE (Jaime Pitner and Cheryl Pacheco, RN)**

- The team has worked hard on getting the protocols reviewed and compiled. We are on our timeline to get these out expediently. Cheryl presented a slideshow with the timeline and current updates to the protocols.
- The slide deck will be distributed after the meeting today.
- As usual, a summary of changes will be prepared for both Adult and Pediatric protocols as soon as possible.

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

- John was not on the call today but will provide an update on SAFR at the EMS Working Group and notes from that meeting will be distributed.

**6. DISASTER COUNCIL**

- Meeting focused on the different Super Stations that are open across the region and the need for volunteers to help make those functional.

**7. BHNC REPORT (Chris Wells, RN)**

- A reminder that BLS transports from an ALS scene need to be run through a base (see S-415). Crews must contact the hospital before transferring care to a BLS crew at scene.

**8. WRAP UP & NEXT MEETING**

Dr. Koenig thanked everyone, to stay the course and keep guard up. The fourth surge may come, which could make the others pale in comparison because San Diego County is at very high number of cases that are baseline even though coming down off the curve.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 23, 2021.