



PROTOCOL VARIANCES

Guidance for COVID-19 Treatment and Transport



September 9, 2020

The following are updated variances for the 2020 SPEMS Protocols for dealing with COVID-19 in the pre-hospital setting and pertains to all levels of practice within the SPEMS Protocols.

These variances become effective immediately and will continue until the Medical Director deems that the COVID-19 threat has been eliminated.

****This variance replaces the variances dated March 23, 2020****

These protocol variances are:

- Insertion of the **Suspected COVID-19 Treatment/Transport Algorithm dated 9/9/2020**
- Insertion of the **Non-Transport Guidance for Minor Cases of Suspected COVID-19 Algorithm dated 9/9/2020**
- Insertion of the **COVID-19 Treatment Supplements dated 9/9/2020**
- To the equipment list of all levels of the SPEMS Protocols:
 - **Add “2 – Albuterol Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs) (90mcg per activation) (As available)”**
 - This medication should be added to each ambulance as soon as possible. This may be difficult to find but each EMS service should make every effort to find and stock this as soon as possible. It is imperative that patients with suspected COVID-19 NOT be given medications via a nebulizer.
 - It will not be a violation of protocol if an EMS service cannot find this medication. If unable to obtain, EMS services shall maintain documentation of backorder from their vendor.
 - Procedure should be followed as detailed in the COVID-19 Treatment Supplements dated 9/9/2020
 - **Add “2 - HEPA or Bacterial/Viral (B/F) Nebulizer Assemblies” (Optional)(As available)**

Surgical Mask Recommendation: The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) now recommends that EMS personnel wear surgical masks for all patient contact, if available. These masks can be used for an entire shift unless contaminated. All personnel should use an N-95 mask for all exposure to possible COVID-19 patients.

Again, these variances become effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notified by Medical Direction.

A copy of this page, both algorithms dated 09/09/2020 and the COVID-19 Treatment Supplements dated 09/09/2020 must be inserted into each official copy of the SPEMS Protocols.

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