

## EMS Stakeholder Call re: COVID-19

March 17, 2020 1600hrs. EST

### Welcome and Introductions

#### Update on current activities (subject to change):

- **CDC Cases in US** [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcases-in-us.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcases-in-us.html) (Updated at 4p each day)

Needs or issues – email [NHTSA.EMS@dot.gov](mailto:NHTSA.EMS@dot.gov)

#### Resources:

- NHTSA Webinar: “What EMS and 911 need to know about COVID 19 – February 24, 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrnbufgDqjo>
- CDC Interim Guidance for EMS and 911 PSAPs for COVID-19 in the US
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>
- Healthcare Supply of PPE
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/healthcare-supply-ppe.html>
- Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirator-supply-strategies.html>
- EMS HHCD Awareness (National Ebola Training and Education Center)
  - <https://vimeo.com/393298804/d84e02e89b>
- ASPR EMS Infectious Disease Playbook
  - <https://www.ems.gov/pdf/ASPR-EMS-Infectious-Disease-Playbook-June-2017.pdf>
- Framework for Expanding EMS System Capacity During Medical Surge (CDC 2017)
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/readiness/healthcare/Expanding-EMS-Systems.htm>
- EMS Pandemic Influenza Guidelines for Statewide Adoption (NHTSA 2007)
  - [https://www.ems.gov/pdf/preparedness/Resources/Pandemic\\_Influenza\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.ems.gov/pdf/preparedness/Resources/Pandemic_Influenza_Guidelines.pdf)
- Interim Pre-pandemic Planning Guidance: Community Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Mitigation in the United States, (CDC 2007)
  - [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/pdf/community\\_mitigation-sm.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/pdf/community_mitigation-sm.pdf)
- Crisis Standards of Care: EMS Toolkit (IOM 2013)
  - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK201058/#top>

#### Open discussion:

- Biggest issue that we are hearing concern from folks about is PPE

- That is an issue for the entire health care community – as well as many other areas of industry
- Overall, health care folks account for < 15% of the overall need
- Health care and first responders (EMS, LE, FD) are being given priority consideration
- The most effective way for agencies to address their PPE needs at this time is to attempt to order through their established supply chain – will likely not work but has to be attempted
  - Then go through local emergency management to state emergency management – OR – through state EMS office to state emergency management (that will vary state – state)
- Screening criteria are one of the issues that local areas may want to review
  - With more widespread disease in the community – rather than asking about travel to specific areas of the world or country, it probably makes most sense to ask about symptoms and exposure to potential cases.
- Questions about testing – the process is still stressed but folks are working on making it better
  - Testing is currently limited to folks who have confirmed / high risk exposure
  - There have been issues about getting test results reported back – efficiently varies around the country
    - We are trying to get that addressed at the national level
- Quarantining is also an issue – currently follow recommendations of the local public health department and CDC
  - there are some areas that are looking at alternative models and we hope to have more information about potential best practices from those areas out soon.