



**SREMS
REMAC**

Susquehanna Regional EMS Council, Inc.

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March 18, 2020

Agency Leadership

I wanted to provide you an update as to our recent discussions at REMAC with regards to COVID-19 and our responsibilities within the EMS system.

While NYS DOH BEMS has issued Policy statement 20-03, there are still many questions and concerns that we need to continue to evaluate and look for additional guidance from NYS DOH BEMS.

REMAC met on Monday, March 16, 2020. Our REMAC physicians, Hospital administrators and County EMS coordinators continue to look at how to maximize the efficiency of our EMS system with any patient surge that may occur. More clarification is needed from NYS DOH BEMS as they have directed us that additional policies and implementation standards of Policy 20-03 will come from them. Please find these basic principles to apply until we have more clarification from NYS DOH to provide the clearest path forward.

- Maintain appropriate PPE and proper hand washing
- Follow your agencies infection control plan should you believe you have an exposure
- Maintain appropriate social distancing

It has also come to our attention that many adult healthcare facilities such as adult living centers and nursing homes have implemented screening procedures for anyone entering their facility. This is an additional mandate from DOH that the institution must comply with. If you have a health institution in your coverage area be aware of this new standard and reach out to the institutions leadership to design an efficient process for your providers.

REMAC is advising each agency to evaluate their on duty crews (volunteer and paid) with the attached COVID Pre-duty Screening Tool. This tool should be done on a daily bases prior to beginning your shift for all providers.

It is also recommended that you continue to support provider's health and wellbeing; limit shifts to no more that 24hrs, encourage providers to eat healthy, be well rested and stay hydrated.

Additional resources

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/planning/state/coop.cfm>

Respectfully,

Ann Teng, DO
REMAC Chairperson