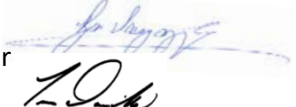





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## EMS SYSTEM ADVISORY #2020-03/20

**TO:** Riverside County EMS System

**FROM:** Reza Vaezazizi MD, Medical Director  
Trevor Douville, EMS Administrator   


**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Policies and Procedures Update

**DATE:** March 20, 2020

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EMS System Partners, we continue to evolve our EMS clinical care guidance as the Federal and State recommendations are updated.

REMSA has made recent EMS System policy updates surrounding COVID-19, to further clinical direction surrounding high-risk aerosol generating procedures for patients with suspected COVID-19 patients, high risk aerosol generating procedures include use of the BVM, nebulizer, suctioning, or intubation. Please see the updated REMSA 3307A here: <https://remsa.us/policy/3307A.pdf>.

Updates have been made to Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols for Emerging Infectious Disease Screening, updating versions and refining call questions, most recent updates are here: <https://remsa.us/policy/2102.pdf>. We have also updated the non-EMD PSAP/call center screening documents: <https://remsa.us/policy/2102A.pdf>.

In collaboration with Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department, REMSA has adapted a resource allocation algorithm for scene calls, providing strategies to minimize patient contact with suspected COVID-19 patients. This tool is used to identify minimal staff to enter scene, minimizing exposure to the patient and maximizing PPE resources. The COVID-19 Response algorithm can be accessed here: <http://remsa.us/policy/FirstResponseAgenciesCOVID19ResponseAlgorithm03132020.pdf>.

Our Operational Area continues to navigate the impact of PPE use in COVID-19 outbreak. Efficient use of PPE is required to best manage not only possible exposures but also supply chain issues that impact this resource. In that theme, EMS Providers should be following CDC Guidance and Strategies for Optimizing Use of PPE (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>) for Efficient use of PPE: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html> which includes recommendations for extended use of PPE, re-use of PPE, and use of PPE beyond its manufacturers recommended shelf-life.

For further questions, you can contact the MHOAC at (951) 830-8041

