



San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency



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EMS Policy Memorandum No. 2020-35

DATE: December 22, 2020

TO: All Prehospital Care Providers

FROM: Katherine Shafer, M.D., EMS Medical Director
Dan Burch, EMS Administrator/Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator

SUBJ.: Coronavirus (COVID-19) System Status Management

The purpose of this memorandum is to specify temporary procedures for Valley Emergency Regional Communications Center (VRECC), the designated EMS dispatch center for San Joaquin County, and emergency ambulance service providers to implement in response to existing public health emergency and the escalating demand for ambulance requests.

SJCEMSA directs VRECC and exclusive operating area (EOA) emergency ambulance service providers to implement to the following procedures:

1. Modification to Medical Priority Dispatch: When county-wide ambulance system status falls below eight (8) available ambulances VRECC shall delay the assignment of an ambulance to alpha level determinants for MPDS Protocol 33, Transfer/Inter-facility/Palliative Care requests until system status is eight (8) ambulances or above.
2. Use of Basic Life Support Ambulances: VRECC may assign and/or dispatch any available and permitted BLS ambulance including non-EOA ambulance providers when advanced life support (ALS) ambulances are unavailable.
3. Limited Ambulance Transports Out of County: When county-wide ambulance system status falls below eight (8) available ambulances EOA emergency ambulance providers may deny patient transport to hospitals in Stanislaus County and Sacramento County. This action should reduce the time on task for returning an ambulance to service in SJC.
4. Expanded Use of Basic Life Support Ambulances: EOA emergency ambulance providers may deploy and use BLS staffed ambulances to respond to any request for service as necessary to meet EMS system demand.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum contact Jared Bagwell at (209) 468-6818.