Policy Memorandum No. 2020-11

DATE: March 21, 2020

TO: Prehospital Care Service Providers and Personnel

FROM: Katherine Shafer, M.D., EMS Medical Director

SUBJ.: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Patient Contact Notification

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide direction on implementing Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-27-20 for maintaining an adequate healthcare workforce. The San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SJCEMSA) with the cooperation of San Joaquin County Public Health Services (SJCPHS) is implementing a process to notify prehospital care service providers including all fire departments and ambulance services of prehospital contact with a known COVID-19 lab confirmed positive patient.

Notification Process:

1. SJCPHS will report on a daily basis to SJCEMSA COVID-19 lab confirmed positive patients.
2. SJCEMSA will cross-reference SJCPHS’s daily report of COVID-19 lab confirmed positive patients with Patient Care Reports (ePCRs)¹ submitted by prehospital personnel to determine possible patient contacts and potential risk of exposure. Risk exposure will be based on guidance issued by U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)².
3. SJCEMSA will notify the prehospital care service provider’s exposure notification point of contact of the occurrence of a crew’s patient contact with a COVID-19 lab confirmed positive patient.
4. SJCEMSA will share the potential level of risk exposure based on the care and treatment and level of PPE documented in the ePCR. Policy Memorandum No. 2020-06 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic provides guidance for prehospital personnel following a potential exposure.

Each prehospital care service provider should send the name, title, and telephone contact information for their exposure notification point of contact to the SJCEMSA duty officer at emsdutyofficer@sjgov.org.

¹ Notification cannot occur in the absence of an ePCR.