Policy Memorandum No. 2020-21

DATE: April 10, 2020

TO: Acute Care Hospitals
Ambulance Service Providers
Air Ambulance Service Providers
EMS Dispatch Center
Fire Departments
Law Enforcement Agencies

FROM: Dan Burch, EMS Administrator

SUBJ.: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Air Ambulance Availability

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the San Joaquin County EMS Agency has been notified by REACH that it is temporarily suspending operations of REACH-2 based at the Stockton Metropolitan Airport. This action is scheduled to take effect on Sunday, April 12, 2020, and is reportedly due to the economic impacts of the current public health emergency on the health care system.

Scene Calls:

The suspension of REACH-2 operations should have limited impact on the management of scene calls considering that the vast majority of major trauma patients in the San Joaquin County EMS system are transported by ground ambulance to the trauma center at San Joaquin General Hospital.

Inter-facility Transfers:

REACH, CALSTAR, and Stanford Life-flight air ambulance resources are available from neighboring EMS systems to conduct inter-facility transfers between acute care hospitals for high acuity patients. All of these air ambulance services have permits to operate in San Joaquin County and are readily available to serve our acute care hospitals.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum contact Jeff Costa, RN, EMS DOC Director, at (209) 468-6818.