

Minutes of EMS Leadership Call
January 6, 2022

Will gave a COVID-19 update. Big increases worldwide in the last week in case counts, but the death count has decreased. Continuing to mine strategies to get folks vaccinated and boosted.

Licensing – Ray Walker

EMR license cards in LIGHTS are suffering some technical difficulties. If you have anyone on your roster who's submitted an EMR application in LIGHTS and their status says Under Review, they're considered good to go. If the application is showing any other status, feel free to reach out to VT EMS. ImageTrend's staff is working on the issue.

Data – Beth Brouard

Beth is our newest staff member and has hit the ground running. One month in and working hard to catch up and fill Chelsea's shoes. Been on rescue for 6.5 years as a crew captain. Have also had several years in the data environment. Open to any feedback; will find the answers to any questions. Working currently to consolidate user credentials and make sure the process is more streamlined. Also beginning the process to onboard FR services into SIREN.

EMSC – Merrill Pine

Will hold any report til next month.

Medical Director – Daniel Wolfson, MD

Little more COVID lurking around, so we're going to review the COVID-19 Field Triage Guidance Protocol. We may get to the point as case counts sore that we may get more requests for transport of COVID patients to the hospital, so he walked folks through the protocol and pointed out updates. Folks have already trained on this, and he met with DMAs yesterday to remind them of it.

Training – Bambi Dame

1. Vector LMS update

- a. Make sure providers update their information and add credentials. This is where they will access the majority of the trainings.
- b. New providers to the service- send Donna and I an email to add them to your service so you are able to assign trainings, etc.
- c. Squad TO's/district/DMA's are able to assign district and squad level assignments.
 - i. Squads are able to track their squad trainings
 - ii. If a service would like to upload specific trainings, for now those just need to be sent to me to upload. Building the trainings is not as intuitive as CentreLearn, so we will address uploading trainings as soon as we are able.
- d. Leadership track in Vector is much more substantial and educational than on the CentreLearn platform. Please take advantage of this education.
- e. Instructor Track for all 3 levels is in development

2. Upcoming trainings

- a. Dr. Joe Kennedy, an ED doc who did a fellowship in toxicology, has agreed (very happily) to give a talk on 1/11/21 over zoom on the new stuff prehospital providers are seeing when it comes to substance use: meth, xylazine as well some of the

usuals. He will talk about the use of ketamine for delirium with agitation since that protocol has changed.

- b. EMS for Children program will present a case review of children with RSV/bronchiolitis on Wednesday, 1/26 at 1900.



- c. Skills Instructor course
 - i. 3 components to complete the course
 - 1. Online self-paced didactic 8-10 hours
 - 2. 6-8 hours in person skills lab
 - 3. 8 hours in the classroom precepted by IC
 - ii. Will be pre-req for IC course
- 3. Working with the Education Council on the eligibility/requirements of Instructor Coordinator Course

COVID- Will Moran

Folks may be trying to access EMS and the ED to access a COVID test. Please be firm in telling folks that they should not be accessing EMS to do this. If people have had a close contact, have been out to eat, or have been in large groups, folks should seek testing. Getting vaccinated, getting boosted, staying home when you are sick, washing hands, wear a mask, not touching your eyes, etc. We recommend getting a flu shot, and providers will give both the COVID vaccine and the flu shot at the same time. This is the time we need to support one another. Discuss now that you have contingency plans to bring staff in from another organization should yours be hit with illness. It's likely this surge will test our industry, especially since it already is. Interfacility transport agencies are already struggling. Now is the time to plan, before you're faced with an emergent situation.

PCR and antigen tests: PCR detects the virus material. Antigen tests detect spike proteins. PCR tests are more accurate tests and if anyone is symptomatic, that is the type of test they should get. There are some take-home PCR tests called Base Kits. That sample is sent to a lab. LAMP testing is a PCR test as well. Heard recently a service chief is looking for test kits for a symptomatic provider. Using an antigen test when you are symptomatic makes you more inclined to get false negatives. PCR tests can be found easily on the VT Dept of Health website, and signing up is easy.

Quarantine and isolation: CDC updated their guidance last week. State Health Depts across the country are now evaluating it. While I refer you to the VDH website, this CDC guidance has yet to be fully or partially adopted in VT, so keep in touch with that website.

Dr. Thran asked what percentage of hospitalized patients in VT are vaccinated. Of the 91 currently hospitalized; 47 are fully vaccinated. 9 of those in ICU are also fully vaccinated.

A couple of weeks ago, we'd reached out about an excess of test kits that were expiring that needed to be used up; if we have another surplus of expiring kits to offload, we will reach out.

EMS rule was assessed by LCAR in December. Implementation date will be 2/1/22 and the new rules are up on the website now.

Dr. Wolfson will send out the updated Field Triage Protocol. It is up to DMAs as to whether they will allow their providers to use it. DMAs were widely supportive about using the UVM EMS consult line.

Question about vaccinated vs. unvaccinated: The vaccine will not necessarily keep you from getting ill. 2188 cases currently: 95.16% of those cases were not vaccinated. 4.84% of those cases were vaccinated.

Ray - for folks who want to become VEFR's....application is live on LIGHTS but we cannot issue those licenses until after 2/1/22. Can start submitting them now. Patches should be in within a couple of weeks.

11:43 a.m. adjourned