

EMS Leadership Call Notes
Thursday, September 3, 2020

COVID Update

Things have been stable for the past couple of months – low case counts, no deaths in two months, but with schools reopening there is potential for outbreaks, so the Department is building up its testing and contact tracing capabilities.

A vaccine is expected by late fall and resources are being built up to get ready. EMS will play an important role in vaccines both for COVID and the flu – details about that are coming.

Be conscious of proper PPE use.

Data

New data reports are posted on the VT EMS website.

Licensing

EMT, AEMT and Paramedic license renewals are due September 30. EMR National Registry renewal is due September 30, and VT EMR license renewals are due December 31.

NREMT has removed the limits on distributive education for the 2021 cycle, but 2022 renewals will adhere to the limits that were in place prior to the pandemic.

Licensing paperwork: It is always preferable to submit paper applications with original pen-and-ink signatures, but it is understood that there are challenges with doing that these days. A scanned document emailed directly from a Head of Service's known email may suffice when necessary. The goal is to preserve the integrity of the system and forgeries are not tolerated. We are getting close to implementing an online licensing system that will use electronic signatures.

Medical Director

Protocol transition is going well. September 30 is the deadline to complete training and adopt the 2020 protocols.

Surgical cric training for Paramedics will be available in the next couple of weeks.

There have been reports from outside Vermont of EMS misusing Ketamine for non-medical reasons, such as at the request of law enforcement to subdue a suspect for arrest. Although there are no known cases of this in Vermont, Dr. Wolfson called attention to the issue. Ketamine is a preferred drug for situations such as excited delirium or combative behavior due to head injury but cannot be used unless medically indicated. He is looking to establish a QA program for Ketamine administration.

VTACHR – HPCPR

If your agency has not yet been trained in high performance CPR, contact the EMS office or Chris McCarthy to set up a Resuscitation Academy. For pediatric HP-CPR, contact Merrill Pine or Keith Hermiz. Seeking funding to offer more training and provide CARES data in easy-to-read reports.

EMS Office Positions

We are still waiting for approval to hire an EMS Chief during the State hiring freeze. We will also repost the Training Administrator position.

EMS Education

Classes are taking place, and guidance for holding in-person training is posted on the VT EMS website. The statewide hybrid EMT courses are underway and will serve as a model for statewide education with local hands-on training in collaboration with districts.

The tuition voucher program still has plenty of funding for EMR, EMT and AEMT courses beginning between August 1 and December 31. There may be some funds freed up for Paramedic courses, but there are currently five people on the waiting list. There is a chance the program will be extended by Congress, but that is unknown at this time.

UVM is not open to non-UVM based classes for the Fall semester but will revisit opening the campus to non-UVM program in the Spring semester. This means there will be no UVM EMS classes for non-UVM students.

Grant Opportunities

The Vermont Agency of Human Services received a \$2.1 million grant specifically for EMS that can be used to cover costs and losses not covered by previous grants. \$100,000 is available to pay a CPA firm to help EMS agencies navigate the funding opportunities and meet the qualifications.

EMS Conference

There will be no in-person EMS Conference, but there will be two free online sessions each month starting in September and continuing for twelve months. More information is on the [conference website](#).