Updates are in red

As we pass the one-year mark since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, additional documentation and data resources have been created and added to the VT statewide run form. This guidance document is designed to help providers effectively document information related to responses during this pandemic, as well as assist agency leadership for planning and reporting purposes.

COVID-19 Supplemental Questions

- COVID-19 supplemental questions have been added to the run form under a new panel called "**COVID-19 / PPE**". They are:

    1. *Was the patient screened by EMS for COVID-19 symptoms?*

    2. *Did the patient have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath)?*

    3. *Has the patient had contact with someone being monitored for or diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days of symptom onset?*

    4. *If EMS suspects or knows the patient has COVID-19, was the receiving facility notified?*

    5. *Has the patient received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine?*

        ***Note:** This question is for surveillance purposes. You are welcome to document any additional vaccination-related information in the narrative of the run form (i.e., vaccine product, date of administration, etc.), but the Health Department doesn't need specific vaccine information since those details can be found in the Immunization Registry.

Documenting PPE Worn by Crew Members

- A new grid called "**PPE Worn by Crew**" was added to the "**COVID-19 / PPE**" **panel.** Agencies can use this grid to document the type of PPE worn by crew members during an incident.

Documenting Disposable PPE

- A PPE/supply items grid was added to the new "**COVID-19 / PPE**" panel. Agencies can use this grid to document the types and total quantities of disposable items used by crew members and patient(s) during an incident.

- A text box was added to capture PPE/supply items that are not included as a dropdown option in the grid. This text box can also be used to document additional PPE information that agencies or EMS districts are requesting.

Patient's Medical / Surgical History (eHistory.08)

- "COVID-19" has been added as an option under the patient's pre-existing medical and surgery history. (Patient Info > Medical History > Medical / Surgical History).

Primary Working Diagnosis (eSituation.11) and Other Diagnoses (eSituation.12)

- "COVID-19" was added as an option for a primary diagnosis and to the "other diagnoses" field.

- Z20.9 – "Contact with and (suspected) exposure to unspecified communicable disease" was added to both dropdown lists.

Hospital Team Activations (eDisposition.24)

- "Yes – Biological / Infectious Precautions" was added to the Hospital Team Activations grid. A hospital activation is an indication that an alert (or activation) was called by EMS to the appropriate destination healthcare facility. (Transport > Transport Status and Priority > Hospital Team Activations).

Temperature Method (eVitals.25)

- "No Touch (e.g., Infrared)" and "Skin" were added as temperature method options in the vitals section of the run report. (Provider Action > Exam > Vitals grid > Temperature Method).

COVID-19 Pre-Hospital Screening Worksheet

- ImageTrend released a COVID screening worksheet to the library called "COVID-19 Pre-Hospital Screening". This has been added to the statewide run form.

Documenting Other Agencies on Scene

- It is critically important to document other agencies that were on scene, including first response services, fire departments, and law enforcement that responded. This will help the Health Department with their contact

tracing and case investigation efforts in the event a COVID-19 case utilizes emergency services and help keep responders informed of their potential exposure.

- You can document this in two ways:

    1. *Preferred method*: Response > Scene > Other Agencies on Scene. If an agency is missing from the list, please email SIREN@vermont.gov to have them added.

    2. Alternative method: write it in the narrative.

Print Report Forms

- Two COVID-19 print report forms were updated:

    1. **Vermont Run Form PDF – COVID/PPE (With Attachments)** is the same as the default EMS form but with COVID-19 and PPE fields added to it. This form has been updated to include a section called "PPE Worn by Crew" that will display the crew member's name and the PPE that they wore on the call (only if the "PPE Worn by Crew" grid is completed on the run form; otherwise this section will appear blank on the print report form).

    2. **COVID Exposure / Contact Investigation Form** is an abbreviated print report form that contains information needed by the Health Department for contact investigations. The District Medical Advisors may also find this form useful. This form has been updated to include a section called "PPE Worn by Crew" that will display the crew member's name and the PPE that they wore on the call (only if the "PPE Worn by Crew" grid is completed on the run form; otherwise this section will appear blank on the print report form).

COVID Reports in Report Writer

- ImageTrend created 3 new COVID reports in the "**Contagious Disease Monitoring**" **folder** under the **ImageTrend Reports** section in Report Writer that are available for your use. They are:

    1. COVID-19: Personnel – Possible Exposure Tracking

    2. COVID-19: Possible Cases w/ no PHI

    3. COVID-19: Possible Cases w/ PHI

    4. The **COVID-19 Screening and Exposure Questions Report** in report writer displays COVID-19 supplemental questions as well as other fields (crew member list, incident/patient disposition, receiving facility, and shift) by the incident date and time of the EMS call. The report will prompt

you to enter the date range of interest and your agency name. This report does not include the PPE fields.

5. The **COVID-19 PPE Report** allows agencies to view the quantity of disposable PPE used during each call. Please note that this does not specify which PPE was worn by the crew members or the patient; it just lists the type and quantity of the item used. Please use either the supplemental PPE question in the COVID / PPE panel or the narrative to document the type of PPE used by each responder.

Signature Status (eOther.15)

- If you are unable to obtain a patient's signature due to COVID concerns and want to document it, "**Not Signed - Crew/Patient Safety (Isolation precautions, pandemic, etc.)"** has been added as an option. (Signatures > Signatures > Signature grid).

Documenting Signature of a <u>Transported</u> Patient

- If a patient with known or suspected COVID-19 is transported to a hospital/facility and the hospital/receiving agent signs the form on the patient's behalf, the appropriate **Signature Reason** for "**Type of Person Signing > Hospital"** is "Patient/Medical Necessity Unable to Sign".

Documenting <u>Non-Transport</u>: Incident/Patient Disposition

- When the **COVID-19: Field Triage Guidance protocol** is utilized and a joint decision between the EMS crew and online Medical Direction determines that the patient meets criteria for home care instead of transportation to the hospital, the appropriate "**Incident/Patient Disposition**" is "**Treated and Released per Protocol**".

Documenting <u>Non-Transport</u>: Patient's Signature

- When the **COVID-19: Field Triage Guidance protocol** is utilized, and both the EMS crew and online Medical Direction determine that the patient meets criteria for home care instead of transportation to the hospital, the appropriate **Signature Reason** for "**Type of Person Signing > Patient**" is "**Permission to Treat**".

Protocols Used (eProtocols.01)

- The appropriate protocol to use for documenting COVID-19-related incidents in SIREN is "**Policy – Bloodborne/Airborne Pathogens**".