

VT EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES April 3, 2020

In attendance:

Drew Hazelton

Charlene Phelps

Mark Podgwaite

Jim Finger

Alan Beebee

Bobby Maynard

Leslie Lindquist

Ray Walker

Dan Batsie

Mike O'Keefe

Adam Heuslein

Leonard Snell

Chris Dube

Gwynn Zakov

*EMS Office Update

- Minutes from EMS leadership call posted on website – detailed discussion during that call that may be good for reference
- Guidance will be going out later today:
 - doffing procedure
 - patients should bring their own MDIs to hospital regardless of chief complaint
- Still looking for possibilities on sterilization of PPE
- Check for resources on Health department website and EMS office website

*Agencies should be sharing resources. If anyone has specific needs or an excess of certain item – information/requests should be sent to Drew.

*District 1 had concerns with N95s received from the state stockpile, could not be fit tested. Ray Walker was unaware of this and was going to investigate it

*Concern was voiced regarding notification of positive COVID-19 patients not coming to EMS. EMS office will follow up on this

*Call volume decrease in some districts could be up to 40-50% decrease. Cash flow will be an issue for many services. Non-transporters are part of this concern. Ambulance association is trying to put together information on this and looking to get support lined up.

*EMS Personnel support

- EMS office will request the volunteer list of people signing up for the medical reserve corp be sent out to EMS agencies
- Ski Patrol – may be laid off ski patrol members that be an untapped resource for personnel

*Small business association loans – guidance will be coming out from the Vermont Ambulance Association

*EMS Education

- some students cannot complete education programs
- EMS office does not have a solution yet – too soon to know if changes are needed
- Some Pearson Vue centers are open on a limited basis. Eligible testing applicants should go on NREMT to see what the options are

- VT EMS will follow National Registry guidance regarding licensing – provisional certifications will be issued, unknown if they will accept it long term, VT will follow what NREMT does. The provisional licenses (and VT licenses) are at least good until the end of 2021 currently

*DVHA is considering delaying or waiving provider tax. Waiting on answer

*Medical supply issues

- services are having difficulty getting other medical supplies – flushes, IV supplies, medications,
- limits being put on orders
- agencies running low on supplies or having issues getting them should contact state office – may have access through national stockpile

*EMS office will work on a hospital/COVID sites transportation guidance on policies and procedures for ambulance arrivals