




MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE

2022-10

DATE: May 27, 2022

TO: Pinellas County EMS Agencies
Pinellas County Emergency Communications
Pinellas County Certified EMTs and Paramedics
Pinellas County Certified Advanced Practice Paramedics, Nurses
Pinellas County Online Medical Control Physicians
Pinellas County Ambulance Billing and Financial Services
ED Nurse Managers

FROM: Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director 

RE: CT26.2 COVID-19 Response Plan & Dispatch Actions

Effective Immediately

Clinical Tool 26.2 COVID-19 Response Plan and Dispatch Actions has been revised to simplify call taking by 911 and Sunstar Emergency Medical Dispatchers per the highlighted section of the protocol.

Attachments:

- Medical Operations Manual Volume 1 - Clinical Tool 26.2 COVID-19 Response Plan & Dispatch Actions -Rev. May 2022

CT26.2 COVID19 RESPONSE PLAN & DISPATCH ACTIONS

Pinellas County COVID-19 Unified Command has determined the following response configuration plan:

1. Pinellas County standard response configurations remain in place.
2. Additional COVID-19 Special Rescue (SR) units may be added to the system.
3. It is expected that agency Command Staff may implement "Condition 2" and/or "Condition 4" at their discretion.
4. "Condition 5" is not to be used for pandemic response because transport units need to be managed centrally.
5. Pandemic Condition Level (Green/Yellow/Red/Black) will be determined by the COVID-19 Unified Command and displayed on the Hospital Status Board.
6. Additional response configuration changes will be made as needed by the COVID-19 Unified Command.

Dispatch Caller Screening:

1. Call takers (Regional 911 & Sunstar Communications) shall implement revised screening procedures which supersedes all prior directives. in the following manner:
 - On all Fire/EMS calls, ask: "Do you or anyone there have or think you have COVID?" if "yes" document RIP speed note and return to PDI.
 - On medical calls, ask "Do you or anyone there have flu like symptoms such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, fever, cough, or sore throat?" if "yes" document RIP speed note and return to PDI.
 - If "no" ask, "Have you or the patient had close contact with anyone with COVID within the last week?" if "yes" document RIP speed note and return to PDI.
2. For any "yes" answer call taker shall place the standard influenza speed note in the call:
"\$Respiratory isolation precautions!"
3. System personnel shall be alerted and implement the appropriate level of PPE *prior to entering the space or making patient contact.*

Notes:

- Any suspicion of COVID on a fire or trauma call ask questions above.
- "Close contact" means within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes without PPE.

Condition 2 Medical (2M)

1. During COVID-19, the EMS system is encountering frequent and lengthy Hospital Bed Delays.
2. In the event of significant and sustained Hospital Bed Delays, EMS & Fire Administration may authorize "Condition 2 Medical" which will be enacted by 911 Dispatch following their SOP which includes notifications to the field and Sunstar.
3. When EMS is experiencing a low number of Ambulances available due to Hospital Bed Delays - EMS will deploy a CONDITION 2 MEDICAL Plan during High Activity to clear Ambulances from Hospitals.
 - EMS Medical Communications will notify all Hospitals via a Hospital Emergency Notification System (HENS) Page. Prior to CONDITION 2 MEDICAL, EMS will communicate with Hospital Administrators.
 - EMS will show Countywide Hospital Status as CONDITION 2 MEDICAL
 - EMS will utilize System Status Management tools to distribute patients as equitably as possible however reserves the right to transport all patients to the CLOSEST Hospital if the situation escalates.
4. Refer to the EMS-Hospital Plan for the actions taken by Fire/EMS personnel and Hospital personnel during transfer of patient care at the Hospital.
5. If the EMS system increases to Condition 3 Medical the Condition 2M EMS-Hospital Plan will remain in force.

Condition 3 Medical (3M)

1. During COVID-19, the EMS system is seeing sudden spikes in demand for EMS services especially transports by ambulance.
2. In the event of a significant and sustained system demand, EMS & Fire Administration may authorize "Condition 3 Medical" which will be enacted by 911 Dispatch following their SOP to immediately add transport capacity to the EMS system.
3. During "Condition 3 Medical", when a Rescue Unit is assigned to an EMS call, it will provide treatment and transport. Additional assistance may be requested by the Rescue Unit as needed to assist. A transport by a Rescue Unit will be to the closest most appropriate facility. Trauma / Sepsis / Stroke / STEMI Alerts, Pediatrics, Veterans, Baker Act must be transported to the appropriate specialty hospital per the Hospital Destination Policy (CS4).
4. When an ALS Engine, Truck, Squad or Medic Unit is assigned to an EMS call, a Sunstar Unit will be dispatched and handle the transport. ALS First Responder Units should refrain from calling for a Rescue Unit unless Sunstar Units are unavailable per Dispatch.
5. During Condition 3M, it is not necessary to call Medical Control for Fire Rescue transports contained in the Transport Resource Utilization (CS5) protocol.