



# MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE

## 2023-08

**DATE:** April 18, 2023

**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:** Discontinuation of Pandemic Plan and Transition of BLS 911 Program to Medical Control Board Resolution 2023-01

**Effective Date: 0800 hrs. April 19, 2023**

### Background

Many hospital systems have recently begun to normalize operations related to patients with SARS CoV2. On Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, a federal law went into effect ending much of the federal COVID response. While many impacts of the pandemic persist, the direct medical impacts are currently low. Therefore, effective 0800 hrs. April 19, 2023, the following actions are taken:

1. The Pinellas County EMS Pandemic Plan is discontinued.
  - Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) decisions should be based on standard medical categories of Universal, Contact, Droplet, and Airborne and be employed as indicated. *Clinicians may choose to incorporate a surgical mask into their Universal PPE ensemble.*
2. The BLS to 911 program, as authorized in the Medical Control Directive issued on January 3, 2023 “MCD 2023-03 Enabling BLS Transport of Selected 911 Patients for COVID-19 Mitigation - UPDATE” will continue with no change to Dispatch/Field Actions and Clinical Operating Guidelines regarding BLS Transport Determination and Handoff. Effective May 11, 2023, authorization for the program will transition to Medical Control Board Resolution 2023-01 (attached).

3. The Target Solution assignment containing this information must be completed within 30 days. Failure to do so may result in Clinical Restriction.

Attachments:

- Medical Control Board Resolution 23-01 Continuation of BLS Ambulance to 9-1-1

PINELLAS COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD

RESOLUTION 23-01

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONTINUATION OF BASIC LIFE SUPPORT AMBULANCES RESPONDING TO 9-1-1 EMERGENCIES TO TRANSPORT PATIENTS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS STAFFING BLS INTERFACILITY AMBULANCES.**

**WHEREAS** the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Medical Control Board may adopt by resolution such rules, regulations, and standards necessary for the operation of the EMS System pursuant to Section 54-60(b) of the Pinellas County Code; and

**WHEREAS** the COVID-19 Pandemic has ended, but there are ongoing efforts to restore the Ambulance workforce; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, IN ITS REGULAR MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED ON THIS 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2023, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EMS MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD:**

1. Rescind the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) EMS/Fire Pandemic Response Plan effective May 11, 2023.
2. Support the ongoing efforts of the Ambulance Contractor to restore the Ambulance workforce by allowing the continuation of the following:
  - a. Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulances may respond to 9-1-1 emergencies to transport patients per the clinical protocol which shall allow the BLS transport of low acuity patients or any 9-1-1 patient when an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance is unavailable.
  - b. Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) may staff BLS Interfacility Ambulances as the vehicle operator.

3. Direct the Director of EMS & Fire Administration to brief the EMS Advisory Council and allow their review and comment.
  
4. This Resolution shall become effective on May 11, 2023.

MCB Member Dr. Matt Nelson offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by MCB Member Dr. Jose Barquin and upon roll call the vote was:

AYES: Dr. Jose Barquin, Dr. Matt Nelson, Dr. Stephen Haire, Dr. Jennifer Pearson, Nancy Hopkins, Brent Burish, Lacey Rains, and Dr. Joseph Namey.

NAYES: None.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: None.