

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

GREGSON H. PIGOTT, MD, MPH
Commissioner

TO: All EMS Providers and Firefighters in Suffolk County
All Ambulance Services and Fire Departments in Suffolk County

FROM: Nathaniel Bialek, BS, EMT-P, CIC, CCHP *NB*
Director, EMS & Public Health
Emergency Preparedness

DATE: March 23, 2020

RE: FIRST RESPONDER PHYSICIAN ACCESS AND COVID-19 TESTING

Stony Brook University Hospital, in conjunction with the Suffolk County Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), has developed a mechanism for Suffolk County EMS System providers and firefighters to consult with an emergency medicine physician regarding concerns with the COVID-19 virus. This process will allow direct patient (the patient is the EMS/fire provider) to physician communication to occur which will allow the "patient" to be provided with information regarding their potential symptoms. This process is **ONLY** for the Suffolk County EMS System providers. It is not for the general public nor is it for family members of the Suffolk County EMS System providers.

Seven (7) days a week, between 0800 and 1000 hours, and again between at 1600 and 1800 hours, a Suffolk County EMS System provider may call Medical Control at 631-444-3600 for COVID-19 advice/personal consultation. The provider should identify themselves by name, agency and that they are calling regarding a COVID-19 encounter. Please remember that this process is for the providers only. The intent of this line is not for family or others outside of the Suffolk County Emergency Response System. **It is NOT to be used when on an active 911 encounter.** The normal Medical Control process should be followed for all patients being treated within the 911 setting.

The rationale for developing this process is to provide a venue for Suffolk County providers to ask questions and obtain testing in this ever evolving public health emergency. This process will expedite medical clearance that may be required in order to return the provider to active duty. The physician may recommend the following:

- immediate return to normal activities;
- a period of quarantine;
- that the provider is tested for COVID-19;
- that the provider sees their primary care physician; or
- that the provider should go to the nearest emergency department.

Stony Brook University Hospital has been able to coordinate with the onsite, drive-through testing point for same day testing, if recommended by the physician.

Please don't hesitate to call (631) 852-5080 or email nathaniel.bialek@suffolkcountyny.gov if you have any questions or contact the Medical Control supervisor at 631-444-1911, if you require any additional assistance. We will continue to keep you informed as this situation evolves.



Public Health
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DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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