

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 29, 2020

RE: SUFFOLK COUNTY PROTOCOL CHANGE FOR NEBULIZED MEDICATIONS

In light of the current COVID-19 epidemic, on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, the Suffolk Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC), in conjunction with the Suffolk County EMS medical director, removed all nebulized medications from standing orders for both the Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) levels.

Effective immediately and until further notice, the use of all nebulized medications has been removed from standing orders and now requires medical control contract for both the BLS and ALS levels. This means that if a provider believes that the patient **requires a nebulized treatment**, they must contact medical control for authorization.

As a reminder, during high risk/droplet-producing procedures like positive pressure ventilation, suctioning, CPAP, intubation and administering nebulized medication, providers should utilize **universal precautions and proper personal protective equipment (PPE)**, this includes the use of gowns and gloves, eye protection and N95/N100 respirators. Providers should also circulate the air in the patient compartment during transportation, wash hands frequently, and decontaminate non-disposable patient care items and interior ambulance surfaces on a regular and frequent basis.

Providers are also reminded to place an ear-loop mask over any nasal cannula or non-rebreather mask being worn by a patient.

If you have any question or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Suffolk County EMS at (631) 852-5080, medical control at (631) 444-3600, or email nathaniel.bialek@suffolkcountyny.gov. 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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