

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

GREGSON H. PIGOTT, MD, MPH
Commissioner

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

FROM: Nathaniel Bialek, BS, EMT-P, CIC, CCHP *118*
Director, EMS & Public Health
Emergency Preparedness

DATE: April 2, 2020

RE: FIRST RESPONDER PHYSICIAN ACCESS AND COVID-19 TESTING – updated

Stony Brook University Hospital in conjunction with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), has developed a mechanism for Suffolk County first responders, including EMS system providers and all other first responders serving the County, 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 provider or other first responder serving within Suffolk County) to physician communication which will provide the “patient” medical information regarding their symptoms. This process is **ONLY** for the Suffolk County first responders. It is not for the general public nor is it for family members of a Suffolk County first responder.

Seven (7) days a week, between 0800 and 1000 hours, and again between at 1600 and 1800 hours, a Suffolk County first responder serving within the County, may call medical control at **631-444-3600** for COVID-19 advice and/or personal consultation. The caller should identify themselves by name, agency and that they are calling regarding a COVID-19 encounter. Please remember that this process is for the first responder 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 professional venue for Suffolk County emergency responders 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;
- testing for COVID-19;
- a visit to a primary care physician; or,
- instructions to go to the nearest emergency department.

If testing is recommended by the medial control physician, the medical control operator will provide the first responder with an e-mail recommending testing. Stony Brook University Hospital has been able to coordinate with the New York State on-site, drive-through testing location for same day testing. The medical control e-mail MUST be presented (either in paper or electronic form) at the drive-through testing site and the responder will be tested that day.

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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