

## COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE

SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

GREGSON H. PIGOTT, MD, MPH

Commissioner

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Suffolk County EMS Agency Leadership

**From:** Jason Allen Winslow, M.D., Director and Regional EMS System Medical Director *JAW*

**Date:** December 13, 2021

**Subject:** COVID Pandemic Update

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With the holiday season upon us, there has been a significant rise in coronavirus and influenza cases in our region. Please remind all emergency medical services (EMS) providers in your agency to continue to be vigilant in the use of donning and doffing proper PPE, proper hand hygiene and proper ambulance and equipment cleaning procedures. All EMS providers who are responding to alarms and providing patient care are required to don appropriate PPE. Please continue to monitor all EMS providers in your agency for any signs or symptoms of influenza-like illness and to ask them to get tested for coronavirus and influenza if they should develop fever, upper respiratory illness symptoms including cough, severe fatigue, and headache.

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services recommends that all EMS providers get their annual influenza vaccination and that all EMS providers receive their initial series of coronavirus vaccination, including a booster vaccination if it has been more than six (6) months after the series of the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) or two (2) months after the Johnson and Johnson viral vector vaccine.

Please continue to place a surgical mask on patients (unless contraindicated by the patient's condition) when bringing patients into the area hospitals, and to notify the hospitals if you are arriving with a patient who exhibits influenza-like illness signs or symptoms.

Also, please be aware that as of today December 13<sup>th</sup>, Governor Hochul has required that all indoor businesses and places that are not a private residence in New York State must enforce mask wearing policies for all persons or require proof of full vaccination status prior to entry.



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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