



180 Prosperity Drive, Suite 1  
Winchester, VA 22602  
(540) 665-0014  
[lfems@vaems.org](mailto:lfems@vaems.org)  
[www.lfems.vaems.org](http://www.lfems.vaems.org)

Date: March 18, 2020  
To: All EMS agencies within the Lord Fairfax EMS Council region  
From: Dr. Chris Turnbull, Regional Medical Director  
RE: Coronavirus Update

This memo is in regards to the procedures in place to address potential cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Some important information as agencies respond to potential patients in the coming weeks include:

1. 911 dispatchers will inquire about potential exposure to COVID-19. Anyone seeking testing will be referred to the VA Department of Health at **877-ASK VDH3 (877-275-8343)**.
2. ***ALL EMS agencies are strongly encouraged to place surgical masks on all symptomatic patients. All providers should utilize appropriate eye protection, gloves, and surgical mask. In high risk/symptomatic patients, personal protective equipment should be utilized.***
3. As this is an everchanging and fluid process, it's subject to change as needed. Currently all Valley Health hospitals have the ability to test on some level. Winchester Medical Center is in the process of setting up a tent for assessing/testing asymptomatic/low-risk patients outside the ED/COM office. Other Valley Health hospitals are currently considering implementing the same process. The Urgent Care Center at Rutherford Crossing also has the capability to test. The possibility exists that patients will be discharged after an appropriate screening exam and/or testing is completed in the tent.
4. If you're transporting a potential COVID-19 patient, please communicate this to the communications office as soon as possible, as they may direct them to a negative pressure room.
5. To the best of their ability, Valley Health will ensure that necessary supplies are available when needed. Any supply issues or shortages should be directed to Tracey McLaurin, Executive Director for the EMS Council at [tmclaurin@vaems.org](mailto:tmclaurin@vaems.org) and also myself at [cctlouis@gmail.com](mailto:cctlouis@gmail.com). We will then direct it to the appropriate personnel at VH, while ensuring that we're acting as proper stewards of available supplies.
6. If your agencies are experiencing medication shortages, please make the pharmacy aware as soon as possible. If you feel your concerns are not being addressed, please direct those concerns also to Tracey and myself for follow-up.

**Lastly, these are challenging and stressful times. Please know that we appreciate your efforts as our frontline providers and want all of our community to remain as safe as possible. As this is an ever-evolving process, the Council will continue to provide updates as information becomes available.**