

From: [Theron Becker](#)
To: [CMHEMS](#)
Subject: daily status update
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:41:15 PM
Attachments: [hepa filter on ET.png](#)
[hepa filter on BVM.png](#)

Brice worked on some options to add HEPA filtration to patient exhalation today. We could not find a solution for a CPAP mask, but using the HEPA filter designed to filter inhaled air on our ventilator, we can add it to an ET tube and the BVM. We have not run this by medical control or respiratory therapy to identify potential issues with a reduced flow rate. However, attached are some images for your consideration.

There is a ton of conversation going on about PPE right now. I assure you, everyone is doing the best we can to get what we need. We may have to conserve a little here for a bit with re-using supplies and using the equipment we have instead of what we want. EMS is good at making it work with some duct tape and ingenuity. We got this. However, it is still a good practice to reduce aerosolization as much as possible (limit nebulizers, CPAP, etc.) and to place barriers on patients with a fever. That barrier might be a NRB or simple face mask.

There has also been reports of crews getting hassled by ER staff due to over-protection or under-protection. Take all your interactions with a grain of salt right now - everyone is stressed and hurried. Brush it off and move on. Aaron and I have your back - Do the best you can to keep yourself safe and provide good care to our patients.

Dispatch centers have been advised of screening questions to hopefully give us a heads-up for high-risk patients. Be patient with them, as you know, our dispatch system is a weak link even in the best of times.

The hospital and ER are finding they need more space for their extra demands for triage, PPE, decon, etc. As most of you know, there is a tent blocking our garage. They are also in discussion of using the garage for cleaning equipment. Several meetings are taking place on how to best accommodate hospital, EMS, and aircraft needs. It is an evolving situation. Just be prepared to alternate traffic paths each time you go to an ER (probably most hospitals are experiencing this).

Managers are tracking the extra expenses due to our response to COVID to help get reimbursed from disaster declarations. These extra activities are expensive and we want to help CMH recoup as much as possible. Help your manager by spending efficiently and tracking all extra personnel time and expenses.

If you have childcare needs or family member offering babysitting, visit the CMH classified page to coordinate: <https://ctm-websrv2.cmh.local/intranet/EmployeeInfo/BulletinBoard/BulletinBoard.asp>

Here are some highlights from a communication sent to CMH physicians:

- CMH is doing drive-through testing.
- Routine procedures are being scaled back.
- Hospital is working on reconfiguring spaces to allow for more beds.
- Virtual visits are in the near future.

Theron Becker
Director of EMS Education
Citizens Memorial Hospital / Emergency Medical Services
cell **417-597-3688** / fax 417-328-7209
theron.becker@citizensmemorial.com

CMH EMS Mission:

Provide safe, exceptional, and compassionate care
to our communities with an emphasis on
highly trained and empowered staff.