

**From:** [Theron Becker](#)  
**To:** [CMHEMS](#)  
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We have been able to get some more respirators that will bring our total up to about 50. That's more than needed for each ambulance to have three but not enough for each employee to be issued one.

A few items from the SWMO EMS meeting today:

- Most ERs in the region have alternate entries for ambulatory and non-critical patients. Notify the ER early of your status and keep your patient out of general circulation, if possible.
- The regional medical directors are strongly recommending only limited airway interventions with potentially contaminated patients. Instead of full intubation, a supraglottic airway with the filter between the patient and the BVM is appropriate.
- Again, do as much of your treatment in well-ventilated areas before moving your patient to the ambulance.
- There was a question about resupplying first responders with PPE if they are on the scene. At this point, we are pretty sure fire and police departments are getting more PPE supplies than EMS, so the strategy should be to limit personnel in contact with the patient and limit the use of PPE as much as possible. As far as CMH, my recommendation would be to not resupply first responder PPE until further notice.

Again, we are reminded to limit any breathing treatment or airway procedure to only those absolutely critical. Additionally, if you have to provide one, do it in a well-ventilated area, if possible, and limit exposing any first responders or hospital environments (i.e., discontinue your breathing treatment before entering the ER).

Be on your toes with assessments, and at this point, we might assume all patients are potential carriers. Not everyone infected has typical symptoms; their only complaint might just be lethargy.

Aaron sent an email today regarding limited cleaning supplies, so we may have to make some adjustments. Be sure you pay attention to how long the product has to stay wet to kill whatever bugs are on the surface.

Several departments of the hospital are flexing staff down and encouraging PTO while we are in the calm before the storm. These departments are expecting high volumes to come with ample opportunities to work extra and overtime. We don't really have the luxury of flexing down, but we sure might be struggling with high volumes soon. Please keep your manager informed if you are available for extra shifts and keep watching the schedule for open shifts and potentially extra trucks on the road.

We were reminded today to be careful on social media as CMH employees. Some highlights of the policy (it is HR13-01 if you want to look it up) as a reminder:

- Respect the privacy of patients and other employees.
- Only discuss topics that have officially been released by CMH.
- Demonstrate CMH PRIDE.

The new hire process at CMH has moved online, where hospital orientation is now virtual. I think this coming Monday will be the first trial of that technology.

**Theron Becker**

**EMS Clinical Chief**

**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.