

**From:** [Theron Becker](#)  
**To:** [CMHEMS](#)  
**Cc:** [Heather Finnell](#)  
**Subject:** daily status report  
**Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 6:31:15 PM

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Please review, in-depth, the previous email about the respirators that were issued today.

Some more info from today's communications to share:

- All census and call volumes are down. The people in the community are doing what is right and staying home. This is also having a financial impact, and we have been asked to conserve staffing and expenses as much as we can. As EMS, we are unique in that we can't just shut down ambulances, and we are in anticipation of what other parts of the country are seeing with increased call volumes. Your EMS leadership's response to these requests is below:
  - While we are currently slow, if you think of an opportunity to fill one of your shifts somehow that would be less costly, see if you can make it work. I.e., if it is a double-medic truck, find an EMT not in OT to take your shift, and you take PTO.
  - When the current schedule that includes the U-shift is over, next week, we will not be scheduling that shift anymore.
  - Our plans for the Crew Leader shift is going on hold, and we will re-evaluate each week. Based on volume, when it starts picking up, that shift will start getting filled and utilized.
  - Managers and chiefs are taking days off as much as we can. I can't speak for the others, but I'm right here in Bolivar, so call me if you need anything. This also doesn't mean you will get any relief from the number of emails I send you each day.
  - We have been approved over the past few months for several purchases (everything from classroom chairs to equipment on ambulances that were "wants" instead of "needs"). All of those purchases are on hold.
- There is a severe Lidocaine shortage, apparently. In fact, the pharmacy could not give us any today, so, until we can get some, please use Amiodarone as much as possible for ventricular arrhythmias and cardiac arrests. Additionally, you might consider reducing your supplies on ambulances from four pre-filled syringes to two per ambulance.
- Bob Anthony has been working diligently with ESO to get Polk County's CAD to report directly to ESO without the need for faxing, emailing, whatever your times, and run numbers. Today, I think he was successful, and you can now download electronically direct into ESO. Bob sent an email to Polk County staff. Be sure to double-check the run number to make sure it is 20B1234 format.

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**[CMH EMS Mission:](#)**

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

**From:** [Theron Becker](#)  
**To:** [CMHEMS](#)  
**Subject:** respirator info  
**Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 5:36:22 PM

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Thank you for coming by today and getting fit tested.

All full-time staff has an assigned mask. Please make sure your name stays on it. It is issued to you until you change your status from full-time, then it needs to be returned. Keep good care of it; they are \$275 each. They are just part of the stuff issued to you as an employee now.

Here are some guidelines for you to consider when using:

- If you suspect someone is infected or you are doing a high-risk procedure like intubation, wear your mask.
- Each station has at least two adapters until we can get more. In Bolivar, each truck has two adapters. We ordered enough for each mask to have their own adapter, but there is a 12-week waitlist at this point.
- Each employee (full-time and PRN) has a filter assigned to you as well. We have very limited supplies of filters. So, re-use the filter until it is significantly dirty or difficult to breathe through. Make sure your name is on the filter. The filters are all expired, but the particulate filtering is not perishable, it was the chemical absorption and neutralizing components of the filter that will have less effectiveness.
- Clean your facemask and outside of your filter with a 1% bleach solution. Then, place it in a breathable container like a paper bag to let your exhaled moisture and the cleaning liquids evaporate.

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