



# County of San Diego

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## ASSESS AND REFER OPTION FOR LOW-RISK PATIENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC – REACTIVATED

San Diego County is monitoring the extent of COVID-19 pandemic-related healthcare system stress, including Emergency Department/Hospital crowding and Ambulance Patient Offload Times. The EMS Medical Director has implemented a time-limited Temporary Emergency Policy, the **ASSESS AND REFER** Option [as outlined in S-415A](#). This Assess and Refer Policy is effective immediately and remains activated until **September 1, 2022**. Agencies may use this option after appropriate training and EMS Office authorization. Requests for agency implementation shall be submitted via [EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov).

To preserve critical 9-1-1 and Emergency Department/Hospital resources, low-risk patients that do not require immediate 9-1-1 emergency ambulance transport to an Emergency Department may be referred to healthcare and community resources. Eligible patients with low-risk presentations include:

1. Stable patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19
2. Stable patients with minor extremity trauma
3. Stable patients with other low-acuity presentations, if authorized by a Base Hospital Physician

All Assess and Refer patient dispositions shall be reported to the EMS Medical Director monthly for quality assurance purposes. Reports shall be submitted no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the following month (i.e., November 15 for October's report). The Assess and Refer Report should include, but not be limited to, incident times, dates, and any repeat 9-1-1 calls within 72 hours. Submit the reports to [EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov).

Thank you for continuing to provide outstanding care to our patients.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristi Koenig".

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director  
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office  
San Diego County Fire

cc: Eric McDonald, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer  
Wilma Wooten, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer  
Jeff Collins, Director  
Andy Parr, EMS Administrator