



County of San Diego

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMS PEDIATRIC PATIENT DESTINATION DIRECTIVES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO END

County of San Diego EMS actively monitors the health of the 9-1-1 delivery system. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased demands on the county's entire healthcare continuum. In an effort to preserve critical healthcare resources in the county's acute-care hospitals, the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director issued two temporary changes directing [all pediatric patients](#) and [all trauma patients ages 14-18](#) to Rady Children's Hospital San Diego.

As the county's healthcare situation has stabilized, both of these directives shall end **March 8, 2021 at 0800**. EMS contacts after this date shall comply with standing County EMS policies, including [S-101](#), [S-407](#), [T-460](#), [S-610](#), [T-705](#), and [T-706](#). The directives may be rapidly reinstated should health system measures – including ED bypass, EMS Transfer of Care times, and overall hospital occupancy – indicate a need.

We thank the Rady Children's Hospital team for their willingness to assist the larger healthcare system manage the recent pandemic surge, as well as the EMS system providers for nimbly implementing these mandatory directives with short notice.

Thank you for the outstanding care you provide to our patients, day in and day out. We recognize and appreciate your dedication during the special conditions of this pandemic.

Respectfully,

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director
Emergency Medical Services
County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

cc: Nick Yphantides, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer
Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator