



County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
6255 MISSION GORGE ROAD, MAIL STOP S-555
SAN DIEGO, CA 92120-3599
(619) 285-6429 • FAX (619) 285-6531

NICK YPHANTIDES, M.D., M.P.H.
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

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ASSESS AND REFER FOR LOW RISK PATIENTS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK – EXTENSION TO JANUARY 31, 2021

Best practices for management of the COVID-19 outbreak are dynamic due to the rapidly evolving situation and changing scientific knowledge. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for [EMS providers](#) and [healthcare personnel](#) are continuously updated. All healthcare personnel should review these recommendations regularly.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, gradual reopening of the economy/schools expected to result in an increase in cases, and upcoming influenza season, the time-limited **ASSESS AND REFER POLICY** outlined in [S-415A](#) currently set to expire on October 1, 2020 will be extended until **January 31, 2021**.

EMS providers may encounter a known or suspected symptomatic COVID-19 patient. Based on the current outbreak, most infected persons experience mild illness and fully recover. Those at high risk for severe illness and/or complications are patients who are 60 years of age or older or those patients with underlying medical conditions. CDC, state, and local authorities recommend that low risk patients potentially infected with COVID-19 experiencing mild disease isolate at home unless symptoms worsen.

Agencies that will implement this policy must notify County of San Diego EMS at MCSDEMSNotification.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov. In order to allow quality assurance for this time-limited policy, starting in October, please provide to the EMS Medical Director a monthly report by the 15th day of the following month (i.e., starting on November 15 for October's report). The report should include, but not be limited to, incident times, dates, and any return 9-1-1 responses within 72 hours when this policy had been used.

Thank you for your continued support and attention to managing this unprecedented event.

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