



## State Emergency Medical Services Board

January 4, 2022

Virtual Meeting

Agenda

State of Maryland

**Maryland  
Institute for  
Emergency Medical  
Services Systems**

653 West Pratt Street  
Baltimore, Maryland  
21201-1536

*Larry Hogan  
Governor*

*Clay B. Stamp, NRP  
Chairman  
Emergency Medical  
Services Board*

*Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH  
Executive Director*

*410-706-5074  
FAX 410-706-4768*

I. Call to Order – Chairman Stamp

- Call the role

II. Emergency Regulations

- EMT Certification regulation revision re: timing of internship
- Provisional Extension

III. Adjourn to Closed Session



**State Emergency Medical Services Board  
Emergency Meeting  
January 4, 2022  
Via Video Conference Call Only  
Minutes**

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**Board Members Present:** Clay Stamp, Chairperson; Stephan Cox; William J. Frohna, MD; Sally Showalter, RN; Wayne Tiemersma; Mary Alice Vanhoy, RN; Jim Scheulen; Dany Westerband, MD

**Board Members Absent:** Dean Reece, MD

**OAG:** Ms. Sette

**RACSTC:** Dr. Snedeker

**MSPAC:** Major Tagliaferri

**MIEMSS:** Dr. Delbridge; Ms. Gainer; Ms. Abramson; Ms. Aycock; Dr. Bailey; Mr. Bilger; Ms. Byrd; Ms. Witmer; Ms. Wright-Johnson; Dr. Wooster; Mr. Huggins; Mr. Tandy; Mr. Linthicum; Mr. Legore; Ms. Chervon; Dr. Chizmar; Ms. Mays; Ms. McAlister; Ms. Goff

Chairman Stamp called the meeting to order at 3 pm and called the role.

### **MIEMSS REPORT**

Dr. Delbridge said that the meeting had originally been called so that the EMS Board could consider advancing two emergency regulations regarding EMS clinicians. He said that due to the issuance of an Executive Order by the Governor this morning, the emergency regulations will need to be amended slightly prior to the Board's future consideration of making them permanent regulations. As with the previous Executive Order (EO) issued in March of 2020, the current EO suspends certain provisions of Sections 13-15, 13-516, or 13-517 of the Education Article, or of COMAR Title 30. Public Notices are being prepared for publication regarding EMTs and CRTs as vaccinators, taking the NREMT cognitive exam before practical experience, the extension of clinician licenses, provisional licensure, and Clinical Extern credentialing.

#### COVID-19 updates

Dr. Delbridge said that there are currently 3,057 COVID hospitalizations and nearly 600 patients boarding in the emergency departments. Three hospitals have requested MIEMSS to place them on Mini Disaster status due to staffing shortages. Dr. Delbridge said that EMS and hospital emergency departments are at critical stress levels.

The EMS Board requested MIEMSS to develop a press release template to assist local jurisdictions with letting citizens know when it is appropriate to call 911, when to utilize self-care at home, and where to access COVID testing.

Chairman Stamp said that, during the Governor's press conference this morning, Dr. Delbridge articulated well the current EMS and hospital ED situation

Dr. Westerband said it would be helpful for the Board and MIEMSS to give guidance to the hospitals when on the verge of going into crisis mode. This morning, Suburban Hospital had only one non-COVID ICU bed and just 4 or five medical / surgical beds available. Hospital leadership asked what to do with Trauma patients after surgery, if no beds were available.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the latest COVID variant and the increased stress on hospitals and the EMS system. The Board stressed the importance of communication and how to assist hospitals when there is no capacity, working in crisis mode, and nowhere left to house or transfer the sickest COVID and non-COVID patients. Dr. Delbridge said discussions have taken place regarding adding alternative sites, but staffing would still be an issue. He said that the state is ramping up testing sites to keep patients out of the ED.

Dr. Westerband said MIEMSS has shown extraordinary leadership during these critical times. The Board discussed utilization of alternate spaces within a facility and communicating / sharing best practices for hospitals and EMS. Dr. Delbridge said that TraumaNet will be discussing trauma center resources and utilization best practices during over stressed times.

Dr. Delbridge said that the volume of EMS transports has not increased, but the delay at hospitals has increased due to increased respiratory illness walk-ins to the ED. Dr. Delbridge added that trending still shows an approximate nine-day lag between the EMS encounters and the increase in hospitalizations of COVID patients. The use proper use of the COVID-19 triage protocol for confirmed COVID patients is helping reduce transports.

EMS alternate destinations under the pandemic triage protocol, as was the determination of who decides if or where a patient is transported.

Dr. Delbridge said that using the @HA app is most helpful when all hospitals are on some alert status and encouraged all jurisdictions to utilize it.

**ACTION: Upon the motion of Ms. Vanhoy, seconded by Dr. Westerband, the EMS Board voted unanimously to adjourn.**