Northeast Ohio Regional EMS Protocol

A Product of Collaboration

Cleveland Clinic

MetroHealth

Southwest General
Partnering with University Hospitals

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Notice to EMS Providers 6/1/2021

[]Protocol changes:

[] Clinical equipment changes

[X] Informational item: updated mask use guidelines

INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

The CDC and local public health authorities have modified mask use recommendations. Accordingly, the "COVID-19 Response Protocols and Standard of Care Exceptions" supplement will be modified to reflect the following:

- **NOTE**: Local officials and departmental/agency leadership may establish mask use guidelines for their communities, municipal buildings, and personnel. These local guidelines supersede this document in all mask related matters other than direct patient care activities.
- If authorized, when in quarters or activities not involving patient care, **fully vaccinated personnel** may choose to not wear a mask.
  - Personnel who are not vaccinated should still follow departmental and public health recommendations regarding mask use, and in general, still wear a mask in quarters.
  - Vaccinated personnel may still choose to still wear a mask in quarters or during activities not involving patient care. All personnel should understand there are many reasons why someone will still continue to wear a mask and support that individual's decision.
- During patient care activities (on scene, in ambulance, at hospital), personnel should always still continue to wear a mask. All prior PPE recommendations for mask use remain in effect during patient care activities.
- All other previous COVID-19 patient care exceptions are still in effect.
- Please keep in mind that there is still community spread of SARS-CoV-2 and personnel are still at risk of contracting disease. Vaccinated personnel are at much lower risk of severe disease. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, please follow departmental policy regarding testing and notification.
- This update supersedes Page 4 of "COVID-19 Response Protocols and Standard of Care Exceptions" supplement "Special Statement on facemask usage".