



Yolo County Health and Human Services



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To: Yolo County First Responders and EMS Providers

From: Kristin Weivoda, EMS Administrator
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Subject: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update #7

BLS/ALS Procedure Guidance

This memo is to clarify BLS and ALS procedure modifications and is effective immediately for all first responders (Fire BLS, Fire ALS, ALS Transport).

During declared public health emergencies such as this, practice patterns frequently need modification and we are given significant leeway to make changes that protect personnel. I understand how it can be confusing. But we should remember, crews will have many patients with these symptoms and being in the back of a rig, call after call, puts you at risk. It is normal to want to help someone who is in need. The ED will treat it at the hospital. ED's are aware that crews may be withholding some common treatments during these times.

Please remember we can never put ourselves at risk during these times. Protect yourself first, then treat the patient. Crews should remember to stay positive; look forward, not back; support each other. Thank you for all that you do for Yolo County!

BLS and ALS Responders:

CPAP/BiPAP should not be used in any patients.

- Exemptions can be made only when patient is an extremist and paramedic deems it appropriate

Avoid using a face to BVM technique and place an iGel or King Tube to secure the airway.

ALS First Responders/Transport Provider:

Oral Tracheal Intubation should not be performed in any patient, place an iGel.

Nebulized treatments should not be used, if you believe the person is suffering from a respiratory illness (fever, cough, acute SOB). MDI may be used if available.

If patient presents as an asthma or COPD exacerbation (i.e. prior history of the condition) without respiratory illness symptoms, nebulized treatments may be used.

- If unclear on etiology or cause, error towards crew safety and withhold any nebulized treatments
 - If in doubt, don't give a nebulized treatment
- If a nebulized treatment is started, you must disconnect/discontinue the nebulized treatment prior to entering the ED