NYS DOH Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services
Briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers
Thursday 7/1/21, 4:02 PM to 4:20 PM

Unofficial Notes
This is not a verbatim transcript of the call. Notes were typed during the call and reviewed and added to afterward. There was no prepared agenda distributed before the call. There was evidently no provision for questions on this call.

Panelists:
Ryan Greenberg, Director, Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services
ryan.greenberg@health.ny.gov
Valerie Ozga, Vital Signs Academy and Executive Secretary to SEMSCO and SEMAC
valerie.ozga@health.ny.gov
Jean Taylor, Deputy Chief, Education Branch
jean.taylor@health.ny.gov
Edward Mager, Deputy Chief, Buffalo, Western Region
edward.mager@health.ny.gov
Richard Robinson, Deputy Chief, New Rochelle, Metropolitan Area Regional Office
richard.robinson@health.ny.gov
Michael Linehan, District Chief, New Rochelle, Metropolitan Area Regional Office (Host)
michael.linehan@health.ny.gov
Amy Eisenhauer, Program Administrator, EMS for Children (EMSC)
amy.eisenhauer@health.ny.gov

Edward Mager
- No report.
- It’s the 4th of July - be safe.
- Thank you for what you do.

Richard Robinson
- No report.
- Michael Linehan advised Metropolitan Area Regional Office (MARO) has moved to new office in New Rochelle.

Amy Eisenhauer
• Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) ranks increased by 2. There are 196 agencies with PECCs and about 250 PECCs across the state.
• For information about the program or becoming a PECC go to https://www.nyspecc.org/

Jean Taylor
• Not a lot new in Education.
• Muddling through with the staff we do have. Getting things done as quickly as possible. Providers are asked to be patient. We are working as fast as we can.
• CME Portal roll out is going well with the agencies in the testing phase. Program will expand to additional agencies. Expect letter from Gene Myers to new agencies explaining the process and how to be involved. Bringing agencies on gradually so we are not swamped all at once. Be patient as it will be opened up to all agencies in the future.
• Ryan Greenberg commented about an issue that has come up related to certification using either the NYS exam or the NREMT exam. Use of both of the exams was through an Executive Order. Working through that right now looking for additional guidance on to handle that going forward with the expiration of the Executive Order last week. Those currently considering taking the NREMT exam or the NYS exam and are looking to work right away are suggested to take the NYS exam. If there is time and can wait a week or two for additional guidance to come out can continue to take the NREMT exam but there is not a guarantee that NREMT will equal certification in NYS as we work through this part. If there are comments, questions or concerns contact Jean Taylor, John MacMillan or Ryan Greenberg.

Valerie Ozga
• Vital Signs Conference registration is opening later today or first thing tomorrow. Have been fine tuning details of the registration and making last minute changes. Will look different this year as virtual component will be added. Look for e-mails and links to be sent out.
• EMS Award Nominations are due today. Reminder notice was sent out today to Regional EMS Program Agencies.
• EMS Memorial Service will be held 9/30/21. Starting to work on details, informing the families and EMS agencies. Look for more information coming out soon.

Ryan Greenberg
• Executive Order expiring has affected contracting with agencies, Regional EMS Program Agencies, ambulance mobilization, etc. and some of the streamlined processes being used had to be altered. Working to adapt to that change and waiting for additional guidance. Leadership in DOH is working towards resolution on some of those issues we are currently facing and working to resolve. If noticing anything or problems please notify BEMS&TS as they may not be aware of it.
• Dear Administrator Letter (DAL) came out this week related to EMS providers as vaccinators. DAL is used in other parts of the DOH and is essentially a Policy Statement and will be numbered 21-05 when it is posted on the Policy Statement web page. It has been distributed to Regional EMS Program Agencies, County EMS Coordinators, SEMAC and SEMSCO members to share with agencies in their areas. EMS providers including EMT level and above were able to do COVID-19 testing and vaccinations under NYS Governor’s Executive Order 202.82 and were considered non-traditional vaccinators as long as they completed the additional training they were permitted to be vaccinators at many different sites including Community Paramedics being out in the community. That expired last Thursday evening at midnight. That left a void with what happens with the EMS providers who were doing these services and the agencies that were providing the services. The DOH Division of Legal Affairs has turned and said that now EMS providers who are approved can operate under the federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act that allows for non-traditional providers to provide vaccination and testing services. However, NYS which allowed EMTs and above to vaccinate under EO 202.82, the PREP Act only allows advanced level EMS providers to vaccinate or provide testing services. This means AEMTs, EMT-CCs and EMT-Ps are permitted to perform vaccinations in NYS under the PREP Act for the period of time that it continues. If anyone wants a copy of the DAL before it is posted can contact Ryan Greenberg or any of the agencies it was distributed to. There are
links in the DAL to the PREP Act and a 2 page PDF Fact Sheet from the feds that talks about non-traditional vaccinators, what they can do and the period of time that can operate for.

- **Community Paramedicine programs** for vaccinations and/or testing services using paramedics as part of an agency can continue to provide these services under the PREP Act for as long as the PREP Act is occurring. DOH leadership understands it is a vital resource being provided by 50 programs statewide. Other Community Paramedicine services not related to vaccination or testing services currently would not be able to be continued.

- **Masks in ambulances and stations** continue to generate questions. BEMS&TS is working with DOH Division of Legal Affairs on additional guidance on this. Deferring a lot of this to the federal side of things related to what OSHA and CDC is putting out as guidance. They are listing EMS specifically in some of these. Working through that guidance to get definitive answers on what the federal requirements are regarding masking. We can say definitively when with a patient an EMS provider is required to be masked and that can be seen in most of the federal guidance. When in a health care setting the EMS provider does need to be masked. It can be a cloth mask. Options for masking is out there, however, it does require wearing a mask. Working on additional information.

- **Vital Signs Conference** has a great program signed up. Really great number of pre-cons. Virtual option is being offered for those who can’t attend because of travel restrictions or whatever. Conference can be watched live or at a later point in time.

- **Part 18 events** need to have permit applications sent in. It is understood “pop up” events come up quickly but some time is needed to review the plan.

Next briefing is scheduled for Thursday 7/15/21 at 4:00 PM. Expanded schedule listing dates is expected to come out soon.
June 29, 2021
EMS DAL Number 21-05

Dear EMS Providers and Local Health Departments:

Given New York's dramatic progress against COVID-19, with the success in vaccination rates and declining hospitalization and positivity statewide, the state disaster emergency expired on Thursday, June 24. Therefore, the Executive Order expressly authorizing Basic EMTs to administer COVID-19 vaccinations is no longer in effect as of Friday, June 25, 2021.

The Department of Health is currently analyzing whether Basic EMTs are covered under the PREP Act, and in the meantime and until further notice, Basic EMTs should not serve as vaccinators or perform swabbing at testing locations. Intermediate and advanced EMTs, which include Advanced EMTs, EMT-CC and Paramedics, are covered by the Prep Act and are able to serve as vaccinators and/or administer swabs for testing, as are LPNs and all other non-traditional vaccinators we’ve been using to date, consistent with PREP Act authority. If you have any Basic EMTs scheduled as vaccinators on your staffing roster, please reallocate them to assist with observation.

Additional information about the PREP act can be found at:

PREP Act: https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/prepact/Pages/default.aspx

EMS Agencies that operate a Community Paramedic program in order to perform vaccinations and/or testing services using agency Paramedics may continue to provide these services as part of the EMS agency under the PREP act.

Thank you for all you have done to support vaccination efforts in New York State. Please continue using approved EMS providers wherever appropriate, especially to reach individuals who are unable to access COVID-19 vaccines through other settings.

Sincerely,

Ryan P. Greenberg
Director
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
& Trauma Systems
The mission of NYSVARA is to educate, represent, promote and advocate for Volunteer and Community Based Emergency Medical Agencies and Responders throughout New York State

To join NYSVARA click HERE.