

## **KYEMSC**

### **Pediatric Concerns Related to COVID-19**

Children have fared surprisingly well when it comes to COVID-19, with very small numbers of children presenting with significant illness. We know children can be vectors for furthering the spread of COVID-19 and many may be asymptomatic. Without widespread testing, it is impossible to know the full extent children play in disease transmission. When encountering anyone with fever and cough, providers should wear a standard mask (yellow mask), eye protection and gown and gloves. The patient should also be masked unless in respiratory failure.

Children present with similar symptoms as adults who are infected with COVID -19 and include fever, cough as predominant features. Children are more likely than adults to have GI involvement (vomiting or diarrhea). While children are at low risk of complications from COVID-19, asthma and croup are potentially life-threatening. It is advisable to avoid unnecessary aerosolizing procedures, but nebulized medications should not be withheld if clinically indicated. In general, treatment for mild and moderate illness should begin with the use of metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) with age appropriate spacer. 8 puffs of albuterol MDI is equivalent to one albuterol neb. For more severe symptoms or those unable to use MDI's, nebulized medications may be administered with proper PPE (including N95 mask) use by crew members. High flow nasal canals and NIVM ventilation should be avoided. Administering steroids in anyone suspected to have COVID 19 should be avoided due to prolonged viral shedding. Seek guidance from your Medical Director regarding any protocol questions or changes.

School attendance puts children in almost daily contact with educators who are trained to identify indicators of maltreatment. School closings, job closures and financial difficulties will increase stress on families. All of these factors increase the possibility of child abuse. EMS personnel should keep these factors in mind when encountering children and have a heightened sense of awareness for any signs of neglect or maltreatment, even when the child is not the intended patient. If concerns are noted, follow established policies and protocols for reporting.

### UK Pediatric Transport Policy Change

During the COVID – 19 crisis the **UK Pediatric Transport service** will not be allowing parents to accompany pediatric patients that are transported from outside hospitals to the Kentucky Children's Hospital at UK HealthCare. Historically, we have allowed one parent to ride in the front seat with the driver. We are trying to be proactive in protecting the patients, parents, and transport staff since there is no way to "socially distance" yourself inside an ambulance.

I'm sending this out to all the Nursing Directors and ED Physicians, EMS and air medical providers for whom I have an email. Can you please help us get the word out about this change to all your physicians and staff?

Since we have allowed parents to ride in the past, we need your help to appropriately inform parents they will need to drive separately. If we have to communicate a change, it can add to their stress during a difficult time.

Thank you again for partnering with us to care for our patients and our community. We appreciate your commitment and support, especially during this time of heightened anxiety.

If you have any questions about this change, please feel free to contact Bari Lee Mattingly, Manager, Emergency Transport Service, Kentucky Children's Hospital, UK HealthCare,

by phone: 859-218-3404 or email: [barilee.mattingly@uky.edu](mailto:barilee.mattingly@uky.edu).

### Annual KYEMSC EMS Agency Assessment Closing

All EMSC Programs are required to collect information and report on their performance measure progress on an annual basis. The 2020 survey will close on March 31<sup>st</sup> and the following services have not completed the survey:

Allen County Ambulance Service  
American Medical Response -  
Louisville  
American Medical Response -  
Northern Kentucky

McIntosh Ambulance Inc.  
Medical Transportation Service  
  
Nicholas County Ambulance Service

Boyd County Emergency	Owensboro Health Muhlenberg
Ambulance Service	Community Hospital
Bracken County EMS	Piner-Finksburg Fire Protection
	District
Citizens of Lee County Ambulance	Ryland Heights and Community Vfd
Service	Inc.
Crescent Springs Villa Hills Fire and	Trimble County EMS
EMS	
Elliott County Ambulance Service	Union County Methodist Hospital
	Ambulance Service
Frankfort Fire and EMS	Washington County Ambulance
	Service
Gallatin County EMS	Wayne County EMS
Garrard County Ambulance Service	Winchester Fire and EMS
Hardin County EMS	Yellow Ambulance
Johnsons Lifecare Ambulance	Maysville-Mason County Ambulance
Service	Service
Larue County EMS	McIntosh Ambulance Inc.
Left Beaver VFD and Rescue Squad	Medical Transportation Service
Letcher Volunteer Fire and Rescue	Nicholas County Ambulance Service
Ambulance Service	
Livingston County Ambulance	Owensboro Health Muhlenberg
Service	Community Hospital
Maysville-Mason County	
Ambulance Service	

Contact [morgan.scaggs@kctcs.edu](mailto:morgan.scaggs@kctcs.edu) if you have questions or need to access the survey.