

March 26, 2020

The KY Board of EMS is a staff of 17 and is operating at maximum capacity. On Monday, March 16th, we implemented our agency continuity of operations plan:

1. All certification/license processing is occurring without delay.
 - a. Certification/licensure provider cards will be mailed April 18, 2020. A PDF copy of the certification/licensure card can be downloaded by the EMS provider from the documents section in their KEMSIS account.
2. Some staff are in the office while others are working remotely.
 - a. Please be understanding if there are delays in returning your calls, emails, and answering support tickets. All communications will be answered.
3. We are now staffing the CEOC from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., twelve (12) hours each day.
4. All KY Board of EMS resources are being primarily directed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. All on-site EMS inspections will be suspended until the conclusion of the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. EMS-TEI renewal has been extended from March 31, 2020 to June 30, 2020.
7. KBEMS BLS Psychomotor Representative (State EMS Official) application process will be extended through August 31, 2020.
8. Emergency regulations are being developed concerning education, certification/licensure, and operations.
 - a. The intent of the emergency regulations is to alleviate the regulatory conflicts identified in the existing regulations in relation to mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic in Kentucky.
 - b. Submission of the proposed emergency regulations will be given the highest priority.
 - c. The proposed effective date will be present date through the current certification/licensure cycle which ends on December 31, 2020.
 - d. Review of existing EMS regulations will be ongoing and appropriate regulatory action will be taken throughout this event to allow EMS providers to perform their job unimpeded by regulation barriers.

9. KY Board of EMS communication strategies for the COVID-19 pandemic include:
- a. The addition of a COVID-19 Q&A picklist in our [support ticket system](#).
 - b. A special site dedicated to [COVID-19](#) has been created on the KBEMS website at (KYEMS.com). This site contains the latest COVID-19 information relevant to the EMS community and additional resource links which include KDPH, NHTSA, NIOSH, and the CDC.
 - c. Providing regular communication updates on COVID-19 for the EMS community, which include:
 - i. Communication specific to the EMS provider audience impacted by the information released. (EMS services, Training Centers, and Providers)
Modes of communication:
 1. [KEMSIS](#) (Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Information System) email correspondences.
 2. KYEMS "Heads Up" application on smartphones. (Heads Up KY EMS)
 - a. Android
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.syntechcreative.headsupkyems&rdid=com.syntechcreative.headsupkyems>
 - b. Apple <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/heads-up-ky-ems/id1365732384?mt=8>
 3. [Online surveying](#) of EMS community using "Survey Monkey":
 - a. Conducting surveillance of all 220 EMS agencies to determine resource needs (Monitoring PPE and Personnel to include illness and quarantine.)
 - ii. At-large communication is conducted through:
 1. Social media ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#))
 2. Conference Calls / Webinars ([Skype](#), [GoToMeetings](#), and [Zoom](#))
 - d. Specific communications to date:
 - i. EMS administrators webinar/Conference calls – Situation report including Q&A
 - ii. EMS administrators KEMSIS email correspondences concerning:
 1. EMS PPE, best practices, and infographics.
 2. EMS assessment and PPE flow chart to include CDC PPE donning and doffing.
 3. Contact local emergency management with PPE requests.

- iii. To all EMS providers:
 - 1. LTC facility screening and importance of compliance with screening by EMS providers responding to calls.
- iv. EMS Training Centers:
 - 1. Educational guidance forthcoming through "Education Matters" Newsletter.
 - a. Clinical/Field internship cancelations
 - b. Limitations of classroom meetings
 - c. Alternative educational strategies
 - 2. KBEMS COVID-19 education issues survey sent to all EMS-TEI administrators on March 24, 2020 using "Survey Monkey".

10. EMS agencies are requested to:

- a. Be concise in documentation of ALL patients to ensure appropriate disease surveillance can be conducted.
- b. Thoroughly document PPE use on EVERY call (exposure tracking).
- c. Use PPE when indicated.

11. EMS-TEIs are requested to:

- a. Communicate COVID-19 educational issues to Robert Andrew, Director of Education, at robert.andrew@kctcs.edu or 859-256-3577.
- b. Complete and submit KBEMS COVID-19 education issues surveys by requested deadline (March 27, 2020).
- c. Follow the recommendations of local, state, and federal emergency management when making decisions concerning offering educational courses during the COVID-19 pandemic.