

MEMO

To: ECIEMS Providers
From: Kurt Bloomstrand, MD, FACEP, FAAEM
Date: March 24, 2020
Re: COVID-19 Aerosol-Generating Procedures and Corticosteroids

To All ECIEMS Providers,

This memo is to serve as a reminder on the appropriate use and precautions with aerosol-generating procedures and the use of corticosteroids in those patients suspected of having Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

1. **Aerosol-Generating Procedures:**

Aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., BVM, oropharyngeal suctioning, endotracheal intubation, nebulizer treatment, CPAP, BiPAP) should be limited and/or avoided in those patients suspected of having COVID-19, unless time sensitive for patient outcome. If aerosol-generating procedures are absolutely necessary for life saving measures, full PPE (e.g. N-95 or higher-level respirator, gloves, gown and eye protection) must be worn.

Only perform invasive airway procedures if absolutely necessary when treating a potential COVID-19 patients. Blind Insertion Airway Devices (e.g. i-gel) take preference over intubation as it will limit the exposure of aerosolized particles to the person placing the airway.

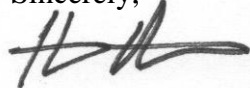
2. **Corticosteroid Use**

Corticosteroids (e.g. Methylprednisolone – SoluMedrol) should be avoided in the prehospital setting in those patients suspected of having COVID-19, because of the potential for prolonging viral replication as observed in MERS-CoV patients.

Please refer to our Emerging Infectious Diseases Protocol and CDC website for further guidance.

The most up- to-date information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/>.

Sincerely,



Kurt Bloomstrand, MD, FACEP, FAAEM

EMS Medical Director
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