(Almost) One Year into the COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives of an EMS Medical Director

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HHS ASPR Clinical Rounds
January 4, 2021
Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Information Sharing/Collaborations
Navigating Current Recommendations and Practice in the COVID-19 Era


NAEMSP Podcast: Lesson’s Learned from Seattle, Washington
Selfless Acts of Community Service
THE GOOD

Brought EMS Telemedicine to the Forefront of Priorities

A Pandemic Gives Telehealth a New Purpose With Community Paramedicine
Early anxiety due to novel virus compounded misinformation

Air Ambulance Transport during COVID-19 (originally named HEMS Considerations in the COVID-19 Era) 7/7/20

• Misinformation: helicopters couldn’t land on the helipad for fear of “contaminating the helipad”, so air ambulances were asked to “land elsewhere” and have a ground ambulance bring the patient to the ER.
Primary Care access lost; EMS absorbed consequences
EMS Education – students unable to access clinical sites or classroom
Suicides of two health care workers hint at the Covid-19 mental health crisis to come

By WENDY DEAN / APRIL 30, 2020
EMT John Mondello kills himself after less than three months on the job
Coronavirus Crisis Makes Ambulances Rethink Hospital Trips

Emergency medical services forgo revenue as they avoid transporting noncritical patients that further strain hospitals

Cannot care for patients without ambulances and its clinicians
Ambulance companies at 'a breaking point' after receiving little Covid aid

In a letter obtained exclusively by NBC News, the American Ambulance Association told the Department of Health and Human Services that “the 911 emergency medical system throughout the United States is at a breaking point.”
California pair arrested in alleged PPE-selling scam amid coronavirus outbreak

They allegedly tried to entice an investor with photographs of boxes of masks.

Fake protective equipment sold to hospital at center of coronavirus crisis in N.J.

Buyer Beware: Identifying Counterfeit Respirators

Counterfeit respirators are products that are falsely marketed and sold as NIOSH-approved and may not provide appropriate respiratory protection to workers.

REPORT COVID-19 FRAUD

Contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline:
866-720-5721 or Justice.gov/DisasterComplaintForm
THE GOOD

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021
LEADING THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19
“Hey Doc! Are you getting the vaccine?”
mRNA vaccination

Formulation

mRNA modifications → translation vs (self)-adjuvancy

In vivo delivery

local vs systemic extra- & intracellular barriers

Mode of action

MHC pathways co-stimulation
T cell activation
Type I IFNs

mRNA-danger sensing

in situ antigen production
antiviral immunity vs anti-mRNA activity

naked mRNA vs mRNA (lipid) nanoparticles

5' Cap
open reading frame
AAAAA
5' UTR
3' UTR
#EMSVax
#FeelingHopeful
SF FIREFIGHTERS GET VACCINE
EMS workers no longer in first distribution for COVID vaccine

ALBANY, NY (WRGB) – The Regional Emergency Medical Organization announced today in spite of national recommendations and previous planning considerations, New York State is no longer including emergency medical services, or EMS, personnel in Tier 1a (first distribution) of their COVID-19 vaccination plan.
EMS as Mass Vaccinators
EMS does not bring patients to health care. EMS *is* health care.
Thank You

Heroes
Doctors
Nurses
COURAGE
Commitment
DEDICATION
BRAVERY
Emergency Services
Passion
Police
Military
Paramedics
Fire Fighters
GRIT
EMT
NAEMSP
ASPR
ECHO
NM