



January 2022

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has had a safe and quiet Holiday Season.

Unfortunately, we are currently seeing the highest level of Covid Positivity rates since the beginning of the pandemic. This along with the Flu season and normal sick/ injured patient load is further stretching the regions hospitals and EMS systems. We are currently feeling the effects of unprecedented staffing shortages in all areas and at all levels, both in hospitals and in the EMS Systems. Measures have been put in place at all levels to help mitigate this, and quite often can change at a moments' notice. This can be frustrating for all to say the least. Here are a few quick reminders that can help as we navigate this time:

1. Stay healthy, mentally and physically. Help others that may be struggling.
2. Wear PPE! There is currently not a shortage in this area.
3. Get back in service. More units in service at any given time means less calls getting backed up. This is better for everyone.
4. Carry your radio. For crew safety and monitoring 911 traffic.
5. Be understanding and patient. Almost everyone EMS comes into contact with now is having a not so great day. This includes our patients, patient families, Police, Fire, E.D. staff, Floor staff, and ECF facilities. Appearance, attitude, and competence have always gone a long way in gaining mutual respect, but I think more so now than ever.

Updated Return to Work Guidance

-12/30/21 update is included with this newsletter and reflected changes both on the CDC and IDPH guidance as well as utilizes the crisis staffing need under the CDC matrix for exposure and the contingency level for infection.

IDPH Emergency Rules Meeting

-Thank you to all agencies who participated in the System wide conference call regarding recommendations to address staffing shortages, either on the call or in correspondence. Memorial EMS submitted four metrics and ten waiver suggestions. We are waiting to hear back from IDPH.

Access to Vaccines

-Vaccines.gov is the national database for vaccine locations. This link allows for search by location, manufacturer and age group as well as provides contact information to schedule appointment.

Upcoming Classes

-The MEMS monthly education topic for January will be Seizure Related Emergencies. The dates and times will be Friday January 14th 0900-1100 and Tuesday January 25th 1900-2100. Register via [HealthStream](#).

-EMT-B	LLCC	1/10/22	
-AEMT	LLCC	1/11/22	Contact 217-786-2834
-AEMT	Rural Med	1/31/22	
-EMT-B	Rural Med	1/31/22	
-PHRN (with virtual component)	Rural Med	3/23/22	Contact 618-245-9111

