



City and County of San Francisco
London Breed, Mayor

Department of Public Health
Emergency Medical Services Agency

Date: July 31, 2020

To: San Francisco EMS Providers
DEM Division of Emergency Communications
San Francisco Receiving Hospitals

From: John Brown MD, MHOAC & San Francisco EMS System Medical Director
Jim Duren, EMS Administrator

Subject: **Utilization of SFDPH Contracted COVID-19 Ambulances, Corporate Resources, BLS ambulances, and Chinese Hospital as a Full Receiving Hospital, Effective 8/1/2020 @ 0700 – 9/1/2020 @ 0700**

The San Francisco EMS Agency will extend utilization of the following resources and system modifications, consistent with the declared local emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

911 and Non-911 System Modifications:

1) **In-County Non-911 ALS/BLS Authorization (INTRA) and Corporate Resource Authorization (INTER):**

Non-911 San Francisco Permitted Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances may be utilized within the 911 System to evaluate and transport Code 3 (emergent) patients.

Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances, staffed with two currently California certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT-1) may be utilized to evaluate and transport Code 2 (stable) patients, as determined by our current Advanced Medical Priority AMPDS dispatch system, from a scene to Emergency Departments. Any BLS ambulance permitted to operate in San Francisco may provide this service according to their provider organization policies.

The San Francisco EMS Agency will allow surge 911 and non-911 response by out-of-county ALS and BLS corporate resources. Out-of-county corporate resources shall be from a company that has a permit to operate in San Francisco. Point-to-point transfers are included. Please follow EMSA Policy 8000 Appendix D "Mutual Aid Escalation." **Resources from both INTER and INTRA mutual aid cannot be utilized until ACTIVATED by EMSA.**

Authorization: For time period listed above.

*****Activation Criteria:** Existing EMSA Policy, Following Daily DEM EMS staffing call, Surge in 911 Calls or Interfacility Transports, Increase in Patient Offload Times (APOT)***

Notification: Via ReddiNet Message/Banner by EMSA Staff

2) **Dedicated Ambulance Resources:** SFDPH-contracted COVID-19 ambulances are being mobilized to transport non-emergency PUIs, asymptomatic, and symptomatic patients between home,

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clinics, shelters, and hospitals to assist with diagnostic testing and minimize impact to the 911 services. This service will be managed at the EMSA Operations Center. If available, these resources may be utilized to offload SFDPH facilities. Staging is at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium.

Authorization: For time period listed above.

Activation: Currently activated 0700-2100, 7 days a week

Hospital Destination Modifications:

As listed in the time period above, Chinese Hospital will function as a Full Receiving Hospital according to parameters listed in San Francisco EMS Agency Policy 5000 – Destination Policy. This means that all appropriate patients who are eligible for Receiving Hospital care may be transported to this facility, including patients meeting criteria for Adult Critical Medical. Chinese Hospital has a state-licensed Emergency Department and has emergency physician and nurse coverage.

Patients meeting specialty criteria (stroke, STEMI, ROSC, trauma, etc.) are not impacted by this temporary change and should continue going to the appropriate specialty care facility, as indicated in Policy 5000.1 – San Francisco Hospital Designations.

Chinese Hospital is currently functioning in this capacity and will continue to do so until the beginning of, and throughout, the new specified time period.

If you have any questions, please contact the EMS Agency