

# ECHO EMS Series

# Webinar

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## Colorado

- Population 5.759 million
- 60% live in 4 counties
- 76% of our land mass is designated as rural, frontier or wilderness
- 32 Critical Access Hospitals; 58 Rural Health Clinics

Governor Polis "Safer at Home" restrictions began on March 25, 2020

Nearly half of Colorado's 64 counties are now asking to ease restrictions.

# COVID-19 Timeline

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February 26, our emergency operations plan was activated

March 4, Regional Zoom meetings with SJBPH

March 11, 2020, Gov. Polis declared a State Disaster Emergency due to COVID-19

March 12, PSMC CEO activated our Incident Command

March 16, local disaster emergency declared by SJBPH

March 24, PSMC hospital Board declared a local disaster emergency

# PAGOSA SPRINGS Medical Center

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Increase Inpatient capacity from 11 to 25 beds

Increase ICU capacity from 0 to 2 beds

Regional surge plan

Activated Crisis Standards of Care for PPE

Initiated Ethics Committee discussion re: ventilator triage

N95 mask decontamination process

Daily employee screening

Screening of nonemergency patients prior to entry. No visitors.

# EMS and EM Dispatch Surge Plan

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EMS “Just In Time” training

Revised staffing of crews

Prehospital guidelines regarding proper PPE for all patients and suspected COVID-19 patients

Adopted CDC healthcare worker exposure guidelines

Dispatch screening; ID Alert

Ambulance decontamination and turnaround crews

EMS COVID-19 treatment guidelines

Colorado Crisis of Care

# The Good News

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High local adherence to “Safer at Home” guidelines

“Flatten the Curve” campaign well received

Number of cases

Number of deaths

Low population density supporting social distancing

# The Challenges

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Air transfer restrictions

Long distance ground transfers of 4-7 hours one way.

Limited EMS staffing and preexisting staffing needs in EM Dispatch

Limited ability to flex up hospital clinical staff

Limited availability of testing with long turnaround times

Second home owners “escaping COVID”

States are lifting restrictions and Summer is coming

# Economic realities

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All elective surgeries were cancelled on March 18.

Gross revenue down \$858,000 from budget

Expense cuts including furloughs, taking voluntary PTO time and voluntary pay cuts.

\$125,000 over budget in March (PPE related supplies)

Received \$594,000 stimulus and 6 grants for supplies

Hospital \$358,000 shortfall

EMS calls down gross revenue down 15% YTD and 28% in April alone



# Going forward

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Elective surgeries

Primary care clinic visits

Emergency Department

Inpatient COVID patient care plan

Continued use of facemasks and social distancing (hospital and EMS)

Supporting our own emotional wellbeing

Adoption of a New Normal

Working through our financial challenges

# Questions?

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Thank you

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