ECHO EMS Series Webinar

MICHELLE A. FLEMMINGS, MD
SWRETAC REGIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR LIAISON
USJHSD EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR
ARCHULETA COUNTY EM DISPATCH MEDICAL DIRECTOR
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

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
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

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

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

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

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

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?

Thank you

Michelle.Flemmings@PSMedicalCenter.org

@mflemmingsmd

www.facebook.com/drmichelleflemmings