Vidant EastCare and COVID 19

David P. Thomson, MS, MD, MPA, FACEP, FAEMS, FAsMA, CMTE
Clinical Professor, East Carolina University
Medical Director, Vidant EastCare
thomsonda@ecu.edu
Background: Vidant EastCare

- Started 1985 – single helicopter
- 1990’s – added ground ambulance
- Currently
  - 5 Helicopter bases
  - 7 Helicopters
  - 6 Ground ambulance bases
  - 25 Ambulances
  - 120 Communications specialists, EMTs, Nurses, and Paramedics
Helicopter Air Ambulance
Critical Care Ground Ambulance
Vidant Health System
The Numbers

• Vidant EastCare
  • Typical annual ground volume: approximately 7000
  • Typical annual helicopter volume: approximately 3500

• Vidant Health
  • 1712 Licensed beds
  • Level I Adult and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center
  • Level III NICU
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**COVID Changes: Volume**

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Our evolution

• 3 resignations
• Initially our vendor (Metro Aviation) did not fly COVID patients.
• Fitted pilots with N95
• Verified our communications ability
• Beard shaving
• COVID-specific weekly huddle email
COVID Transports

- Running fans – no recirculating air
- Intubated patients
  - Clamping tubes and vent on standby
  - HEPA filter as close to ETT as possible
- No BiPap / CPAP if COVID
- High flow Nasal Cannula with surgical mask
Current State

- Through 2 June
  - 19 Air
  - 57 Ground
- 2 open positions
- Disinfectant sprayers
- Industrial misting device
- Turnaround time ~ 30 min
  - Normal turnaround 15 min
Problems

• PPE
  • Use the N95 for the day and protect it with a surgical mask
  • Visor down during air transport
  • Surgical mask with face shield for ground transport.

• Uniforms
  • Carry a spare uniform at all times

• Ventilator tubing
  • Worked with RT toward possibility of decontamination and reuse

• Supply Chain
  • 3x week meetings with system supply chain managers
  • Change to smaller, more frequent orders

• Psychological
  • Very active and supportive Emergency Services Chaplain
Questions?

Special thanks to: Trey Labrecque, Scott Sampey, Julie Griffin, Niti Armistead, Bill Cleve, and the EastCare Crew Members