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ASSOCIATION OF AIR MEDICAL SERVICES



AAMS COVID-19 STATEMENT

March 19th, 2020

The Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS), representing the critical care transport industry – both air and ground – encompasses vast resources capable of caring for and transporting a variety of patients, including those with infectious disease.

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with the EMS COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Working Group, hosted by the NHTSA Office of EMS and includes CDC, DHS, and DHHS Office of Preparedness, as well as multiple National EMS affiliated associations. We are also staying apprised of updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will provide updates as they become available.

Due to the expanded scope of practice of critical care transport providers, our members are often required to assist patients exceeding the capabilities of our community ground Advanced and Basic Life Support (ALS/BLS) EMS colleagues. These may include infectious disease patients requiring complex ventilator management or those on ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation), and our most fragile pediatric patients to cite a few examples.

Our knowledge and understanding of COVID-19 is ever evolving. Healthcare systems are developing strategies that may call for managing these patients in place, rather than transporting them to more preferable locations. Even with these tactics, we anticipate some patients will require transport to other appropriate facilities. As well, a variety of patients may need transport to specialty care not related to their potential COVID-19 exposure or infection.

Our AAMS members are working diligently to ensure the transportation needs of our patients can and will continue to be met. In some cases this may dictate changing the mode of transport based on a number of factors including severity of the patient, distance to be traveled, capability of supporting staff and resource availability.

As an integral part of the health care delivery system, AAMS members are dedicated and committed to serving the people in their communities and will continue to do so during this crisis to the best of our ability.

Cameron Curtis, CMM, CAE
President & CEO
Association of Air Medical Services

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