



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

J. SAM HURLEY
DIRECTOR

CLINICAL BULLETIN			
Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
#2020-04-07-01	Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest during COVID-19 Pandemic		7 Apr 2020
Superseded	Released By:	Source:	Pages
N/A	Maine EMS	Maine EMS; Maine OCME	1
Approved By:	J. Sam Hurley, MPH, EMPS, NRP Maine EMS Director	Matthew Sholl, MD, MPH State Medical Director	<i>MS</i>

Maine EMS recognizes that our providers will be called to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation on patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to ensure the safety of our providers, we remind you to don appropriate PPE prior to the initiation of direct patient care. Please follow the current Maine EMS Prehospital Treatment Protocols. Termination of resuscitation standards have not been altered at this time. **What is changing is that we ask you to contact the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) at (800) 870-8744 from the scene if you suspect that the death may be related to COVID-19.** The staff at the OCME office will ask you specific questions to determine whether or not the deceased needs to be tested for SARS-CoV-2. These questions may include:

1. Has the patient been previously tested for SARS-CoV-2?
2. Had the patient been exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19?
3. Did there appear to be an obvious alternative cause of death?
4. Does the patient fall into one of the CDC-defined high-risk categories?

If a provider has an exposure to aerosolized particles, droplets or other body fluid during a resuscitation that is terminated on scene and the patient's COVID-19 status is not known, please contact the OCME *immediately* and discuss the case with them. If it is deemed that testing of the patient is needed, the OCME will facilitate this. They will ask that the Maine Health & Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) prioritize the sample as first responders are categorized as high-risk individuals.

Please follow your departmental occupational exposure procedure as well as the Maine EMS Clinician Quarantine Guideline which can be found on the Maine EMS COVID Clinical Resources page at www.maine.gov/ems/protocols-resources/coronavirus.

Any questions regarding this recommendation should be directed to Maine EMS.

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PHONE: (207) 626-3860

TTY: (207) 287-3659

FAX: (207) 287-6251

With offices located at the Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1, Augusta, ME 04330