



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Public Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services


Bill J. Crouch
Cabinet Secretary

Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH
Commissioner & State Health Officer

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 1, 2020

TO: EMS Agency Official Representatives
EMS Agency Medical Directors
Medical Command Center
Prehospital Field Providers

FROM: Michael Mills, DO, FACEP 
State OEMS Medical Director

RE: Effective April 1, 2020: EMS Transport of Suspected/Confirmed Covid-19 Patients

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is responsible for the emergency care and transport of patients with both confirmed and suspected coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19). For optimal management of all patients seeking Emergency Medical Services during this Covid-19 pandemic, several West Virginia acute care facilities are designating an alternative destination for patients with confirmed or suspected Covid-19.

Effective midnight April 2, 2020, when a WV acute care facility declares/identifies an alternate destination for a suspected/confirmed Covid-19 patient, the EMS provider transporting the patient should be directed to the identified alternate destination. **Transport of a suspected/confirmed Covid-19 patients to an alternate destination will not be considered a diversion.**

All WV EMS transporting agencies will contact the Medical Command Center for confirmation of a receiving facility patient destination prior to scene departure with the patient. WV Medical Command Centers will be responsible for directing an EMS transporting agency to an alternate receiving facility destination. The transport to an alternative receiving destination should be communicated to the patient prior to scene departure.

In the event the patient does not agree with transport to the alternate destination, the EMS provider should, again, communicate the need for transport to the alternative destination and provide the option and risks of not being transported. Patients **should not** be transported to the local receiving acute care facility when that facility has designated an alternative receiving facility for suspected/confirmed Covid-19 patients.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.