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COVID-19 Update

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To: Riding <riding@plainsbororescuesquad.org>

Hi All,

I apologize in advance, but effective immediately, all calls will be staffed by EMT2s and higher ONLY. Every call will be staffed with only two people unless it's a call where additional manpower is required. That means that cadets and trainees are not going to be riding for the foreseeable future. This is for your protection so we can minimize how many people get in contact with this disease. I know that everyone wants to ride and help the community but for me, your safety is paramount so all members who cannot help complete a crew as per our ranking standards will be barred from riding effective immediately. Please do not take this as a punishment. If trainees and cadets want to come to the Squad at 8 PM to rig check and drill with the crew, they are most welcome to do so but it is not mandatory and will not be held against you if you do not show up. Cadets, I will be sending an email to your parents (probably today) to outline what is going on and what our procedures are going forward.

Crews that do not sleep at the building have the discretion to take the truck and 104 home at night (one person takes the truck, other person responds straight to scene in 104 or their POV) if they choose to do so. Please make sure to return the truck the next morning at a timely fashion. If this policy gets out of control, I will revisit it. This policy is just to expedite our responses since we are just relying on two people now instead of three or four. Use your discretion. Don't make me take away this privilege.

There are two positive cases in Plainsboro at this time (husband and wife from the same residence) and if we are dispatched to that address, Dispatch will notify us but will require us to call them on the non-emergency line (609-799-2333, extension 0). They will not say it over the air but if they ask you to call them, you know why. As of now, even I have not been told what this address is at this time. I'm not sure if that will change. Speaking of positive responses, our crew just went to Merwick and had a patient who may very well have a COVID-19 infection. I will be reaching out to Barbara Vaning to see what the procedure is for notification to the Squad but as of now, the only information that I have been provided is that it takes 3-5 days for testing and that PMPMC will be in touch with me regarding it. I will advise you as I find out more. With that said, be very very careful going into Merwick calls. Please take every precaution before entering as deemed necessary. This extends into Windrows calls too because we just don't know what lurks there. If there are cases at Merwick/Windrows, they will spread like wildfire due to the sick and elderly patients that reside there so containment might be difficult and we may have to take extra precautions.

Starting immediately, there will be no Police Department response on our calls. They will only be responding to certain types of calls (CPR/DOA, domestic violence, MVCs, suicide/psychiatric, overdoses, etc.). If you require them for anything, please contact Dispatch and let them know you want a Police Department response.

I'm also suspending 2nd OIC shifts. I'm ok with us getting one crew out and want our OICs and EMT2s to rest up instead of taking calls multiple nights a week. Not getting enough sleep may make you prone to contracting the disease. If you happen to be around and listen in for 2nd Assignments, that would be wonderful but by no means will you be obligated to listen in for the foreseeable future. And with that said, there's a bunch of open shifts this coming week so please pick them up if you are available.

I will be making COVID kits and placing them in the rigs and in 104 and will let you know when that is done. They will include a gown, a duckbill N95 mask (for us), surgical mask (for patient), and safety glasses. They will be placed in ziploc bags and placed on the back of the stretcher. Please make sure to check for those when you do your rig check. There will be extra gowns placed where the extra N95 masks are placed. If you use the kits, please make sure to replenish them by making a new one from the supplies in the rig.

Sorry for another lengthy email but I hope to keep our members safe and away from this harmful virus at this time. I greatly appreciate all your help and willingness to ride even in these trying times and hope that we can come back to status quo sooner rather than later. Remember to practice social distancing and proper hygiene to keep yourself safe while this blows over.

Regards,
Ankit Parikh

