



N.I.E.S.A.

Northeast Ingham Emergency Services Authority
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March 17, 2020

Valued Community Members,

I want to take this opportunity to address our communities growing concerns and fears associated with the current Covid-19 pandemic event and the response paradigm that we are deploying. First, please understand that this event continues to be a fluid and dynamic event as new information and cases emerge globally. We continue to monitor the situation daily and are working closely with other healthcare partners within the community to ensure a safe and timely response to our community.

The signs and symptoms of the Covid-19 virus are very similar to other diseases that are currently being experienced within our community. We continue to encourage our community to practice social distancing, appropriate hand hygiene, and avoiding interaction while feeling ill. We don't exactly know how the virus can spread or who may spread it. More often the patients we attend to are often at the most risk for the serious illness. We have no other options than to take appropriate steps to isolate our healthcare responders. To ensure the safety and wellness of our personnel and their families, we are implementing fairly extensive measures to keep our staff from being exposed. In the abundance of caution, our personnel will be donning several layers of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) above and beyond average. While responding personnel may appear in extensive PPE, this does not mean that the patient we are treating has the virus, or is even suspected of having the virus. It is merely a means of ensuring our valued emergency response personnel remain healthy and do not risk any inadvertent exposures. These precautions ensure our pre-hospital emergency response personnel remain available to provide the highest level of care our community has grown to expect from our department.

Currently, we are continuing to prescreen and respond to calls for emergencies, as we usually would with little to no noticeable changes other than elevated PPE. While we continue to ensure safe and prudent care to our citizens, please do not be alarmed if you encounter personnel in these heightened levels of PPE. Follow any directions they may give, and please refrain from unnecessarily approaching response units so they may focus on treating the response at hand.

In closing, we will continue to proactively monitor and make necessary response changes as new information is provided. If you have questions regarding Covid-19, you are encouraged to call Ingham County Health Dept. at 517-887-4311 or visit <http://www.ingham.org/> or <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus> for more information. As always, if you have or are experiencing an emergency, please call 911 to activate an appropriate response. Please rest knowing your local emergency responders and public health care partners are closely monitoring the situation daily and taking appropriate protective measures to ensure our community is safe.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Yanz
Director/Fire Chief