



NUMBERED NOTICE

Number: **20-06**

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From: Ben Weston, MD, MPH, Medical Director

To: All EMS Providers, EMS Communications, EMS Receiving Hospitals

Subject: COVID-19 Dynamic Triage Plan

Purpose: Directive

Purpose

- To allow for a patient-centered approach to the distribution of certain COVID-19 positive/suspect patients based on intensive care unit capacity among all Milwaukee County EMS Receiving Hospitals during times of extreme ICU strain.
- Outline a process and criteria for implementing the existing [Hospital Destination and Transport Operational Policy](#) under the Specialty Care condition “Emerging Public Health Infectious Diseases” category.

Process

Hospitals may utilize the “Limited Divert” option for certain COVID-19 patients/suspects when:

- Hospital is operating under the Phase 3 conditions and
- Hospital reaches $\geq 80\%$ of ICU bed Phase 3 Occupancy and
- CMO or designated agent updates EMResource and notifies the Milwaukee County EMS Communication Center at 414.278.4343 as outlined in above referenced policy - page 5

Patient eligibility for “Limited Divert” is based on anticipated ICU needs:

- RR > 24/min (adult) *or*
- Unable to raise SpO2 above 90% on 5L O2 *or*
- CPAP/NIPV *or*
- Advanced airway or BVM ongoing

Understanding:

- EMS Provider judgment can override a Limited Divert request based on clinical deterioration
- Hospitals are required by EMTALA to provide a medical screening exam even if on Limited Divert
- Data on Limited Divert utilization is public and transparent
- Limited Divert may end if all Milwaukee County Receiving Hospitals are simultaneously on Limited Divert status, in the event of a local or state emergency declaration, or when determined by the EMS Medical Director

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The above information is reviewed and compiled
by the MCW Division of EMS Medicine