

**Berks DES EMS Working Group
January 4, 2022
General Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 10:01

In Attendance:

Name	Representative(s)
Bally	
Bethel	
Boyertown	Brian Benoit
Cetronia	
Counter Terrorism	
DES	Sean Hart, Christina Wood, Michael Smith, Brian Gottschall
Elverson	
Eastern PA Medcom	
Eastern PA EMS Council	John Kloss
Ephrata Hospital	
First Aid and Safety	
Gilbertsville	
Goodwill Pottstown	
Hamburg	Leslie Herring
Healthcare Coalition	
Kutztown	Rodney Freeman
LGH	
Lower Alsace	
LVH/LVH Medevac	
Muhlenberg	Chris Murray
Myerstown	
Newmanstown	
Northern Berks EMS	Stephen Bobella
Oley	Mike Geisinger
Penn Star	
Penn State - Life Lion	John Shook
Penn State - Saint Joes	Don Hirsch, Duane Siberski
Reading Fire Department	Mike Sninsky
RHS School of Health Sciences	Merv Wertz
Saint Luke's Hospitals	Jeff Yanochko, Dr. Wilson
Southern Berks	
Topton Ambulance	Mike Richards
RHMC – Tower	Chelsie Ober, Dr. Stauffer
Western Berks	Carrie Frey, Anthony Tucci

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Previous Minutes

Motion: Merv Wertz
2nd: Duane Siberski
Motion Approved

DES Account

- DOH – change way of publishing data
 - Backwards data of death
 - No daily dose of death reporting
- Survey document about PPE
 - Hospital can fill forms out as well
- Jan 1st
 - First time to implement “Plan Charlie” due to staffing
 - Thank you to all
- Jan 12th
 - Possible “Plan Charlie” – modified operations due to technology updates
 - Will send out specific details closer to time
 - Impact all radio sites as well
 - Does not affect phone calls to Medcom
- Roll Call Video
 - Any forward progress??
 - Importance of PPE
 - Dr. Wilson will work on this with Tony and Brian
- Plan for modified operations
 - Downgrade of EMS due to staffing and call volume
 - Other counties have no plans in effect
 - South Central
 - Omega response (refuse or referral)
 - Extensive discussions and will share information

Task Force/Healthcare Coalition

- Not present

Eastern PA EMS Council

- Keeping focus on providers and mental health
- CISM team has been reaching out
- Sent out provider deadline list
 - 209 expire on Jan 1
- CDC
 - Non healthcare
 - 5 isolate days
 - Asymptomatic

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- 5 days mask
- No changes for us, but for general public

Eastern PA MedCom

- Not present

Tower Health System

- Full Emergency Room
 - Covid number up
 - ICU numbers down
- Dinner and learn
 - January 25th – Virtual at 1800
 - Posted on FB
 - Cardiology scheduled for February
- Facesheets
 - CSN# - yes
 - May not have patient social
- Medical command review
 - Jan 12 and 15

Penn State Saint Joseph Medical Center

- 7-day rolling average
- 64% + average 10 a day
- Testing for all 3 – flu, RSV, Covid
- Opened up drive thru
 - Source out from ED
 - 8-12 Advertised
 - May hang a little longer than noon
- ED slammed
 - No major uptick in wall time
- Crews have been better with masks

Reading School of Health Sciences

- Policies still in place – N95
 - Facemask when in station and not with patient
- Back in class Monday as of right now
- Students doing a lot of clinicals
- 1 student symptomatic
- EMT class starting Thursday

Lehigh Valley Health Network

- Not present

St Luke's

- Extremely high volumes in ED
- 90% are unvaccinated that are in ICU

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- National registry end of January
 - Virtual

Hershey Medical Center

- Nothing to report

Lancaster General Hospital

- Not present

Dr. Schiffer

- Not present

Dr. Wilson

- Thank you for what you do – be safe
- Still able to get reinfected by same variance or a different one
 - No hard scientific behavior

Dr. Siberski

- High volume in all departments
- Omicron increase from 60% from week before
 - Less lung impact
 - Men worse than women
- Flu in area as well
- Can be double infected
- 10 days dropped to 7 days; 5 days quarantined
- FDA
 - Pfizer for 10-15 year olds
 - MRNA vaccines for everyone
 - Drugs still not working well
 - Continue diligence
 - Don't crop dust the ED with aerosolized meds
 - Urgent cares will close
 - Surge will occur in ED's
 - Testing sites are open
 - Each patient is case by case
 - PTSD in healthcare
 - Keep an eye on each other

Dr. Stauffer

- Keep self and staff safe
 - Mental Health
 - Shifts
 - Staffing
- Covid not going away, will be part of our lives

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Old Business

- Nothing

New Business

- None

Next Meeting: February 1 2022 at 10:00

Motion to close

END: 1056 hours

Motion: Duane Siberski

2nd: Merv Wertz