



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

20-041

March 20, 2020

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Dr. Rowland, UFA Medical Director

SUBJECT: COVID Airway Management Guidance

Thank you all for participating in UFA's Covid-19 Town Hall WebEx Meeting. For those who were not able to participate, it will be available later today on LMS. It was a great opportunity to answer questions and provide up to date accurate information to UFA members. We are making ongoing changes as the situation requires regarding interactions and treatments for COVID confirmed or suspected patients. One of these important changes is around airway management. UFA Medical Director, Dr. Rowland, and several Medical Directors with surrounding EMS agencies, are recommending that LMA be used for airway management with appropriate patients instead of endotracheal intubation.

This recommendation will be in effect as long as we are dealing with the COVID pandemic. There have also been questions raised regarding aerosolizing treatments such as nebulized albuterol and CPAP. Current recommendation is that COVID suspected and COVID confirmed patients who may require nebulized albuterol be directed to use their own MDI with a spacer. We have asked Logistics to look into the availability of spacers to be distributed. This will take some time to accomplish, but we will keep you informed. If nebulization is necessary, then full PPE is recommended (gown, eye protection, N-95, gloves, etc.) and staying as far away from or behind the patient as practical to avoid aerosolized viral exposure. Regarding CPAP, if it is possible to get the patient to a hospital in an expeditious way and avoid CPAP, that is our recommendation. If no other reasonable means is possible, then CPAP can be utilized with the same full PPE precautions as noted above.

Thank you again for all your great work. If there are any questions or concerns, please direct them to the EMS Division or the UFA Safety Officer, Captain Greensides. This is an ongoing reevaluation and I believe additional modifications will be made as time goes on.

Kim Rowland, MD