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ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN

No. 20-CLN-006

TO: Contra Costa County EMS Providers

FROM: Dr. Senai Kidane, EMS Medical Director

DATE: December 15, 2020

SUBJECT: PES for Voluntary Behavioral Patients

Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC) has recently had multiple asymptomatic patients test positive for COVID within a very short time frame. PES is a congregate setting that routinely screens all patients for COVID and due to their small size, have no effective way of isolating patients waiting for test results. Every time there is a positive, they shut down to incoming traffic to deep clean, which backs up the entire system. With the prevalence of COVID growing in the community, the most recent situation has them very concerned that there could be an outbreak within PES that could force them to shut down for a significant period of time. This would obviously be an unacceptable outcome for our system. They are taking a multi-pronged approach to decompressing PES and as just a part of that effort, have asked EMS to avoid absolutely unnecessary traffic to their facility.

Effective immediately, 911 EMS providers shall avoid transport to PES for all voluntary behavioral patients that are not on a 5150. These patients should be taken to a local receiving facility emergency department, with effort made to transport them to their home facility.

The voluntary population represents only a small percentage of the overall volume of patients transported to PES, but this policy will be impactful in their ability to manage the risk of an outbreak within their facility. This policy shall be in effect for **3 weeks** from the date of this memo. Any need for extension will be re-evaluated at that time based on the number of COVID positive patients at PES and review of community prevalence data at that time. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.