



To: Colorado Boards of County Commissions

From: Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division

Date: April 27, 2020

This notification is a follow-up to correspondence sent to you on April 3, 2020 by the Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department has been working as part of the State's Unified Command Center to support and direct state resources to Colorado healthcare systems. The current COVID-19 pandemic patient models for Colorado project the need for patient care sites, medical equipment, and transport vehicles. This need is expected to exceed the current healthcare system's capacity within one month, unless social distancing continues to have a positive impact in reducing COVID-19 exposures.

If the anticipated patient surge occurs, the State will make every effort to provide hospitals and EMS response systems with additional necessary resources such as hospital beds, medical equipment, alternate care sites, and air/ground medical transportation. These responsive actions will be taken to provide adequate resources for patient care demands and to ensure that every Colorado citizen will have access to definitive medical care at their time of need.

The State has discerned that county EMS operations may become depleted during the anticipated COVID-19 patient surge. As you know, counties are the statutory authority that license ground ambulances under normal conditions. However, the current COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an emergency that has resulted in the State's declaration of a disaster emergency. Under circumstances in which existing ambulance services are insufficient/inadequate to respond to emergency response needs, Colorado law suspends statutory county licensure requirements. Therefore, the State has contracted with FEMA to provide additional EMS vehicles and personnel during the projected COVID-19 patient surge. AMR is the contractor that FEMA will employ to provide these additional EMS resources. AMR's resources are intended to serve the limited but necessary purposes of assisting local EMS agencies and providers with emergency transports and interfacility transfers due to medical surge when local resources are incapable of responding to and providing patient transport.

For questions, please contact Dr. Jeff Beckman, CDPHE-HFEMS State Emergency Medical Director. at jeff.beckman@state.co.us, or at (720)-325-4947.