

## COVID-19 Update #3 - July 2, 2020

### **EHS Medical First Response Agencies:**

EHS MFR Services would like to thank Nova Scotia's Medical First Response (MFR) agencies for their support and cooperation over the past several months as the Emergency Health Services (EHS) system responded to COVID-19.

Although, the EHS system has not yet returned to business as usual, we are pleased to inform you that there is a program resumption plan in development. This plan consists of a multi-phased approach to return MFR agencies to community response in the coming weeks. This approach will also enable the EHS System to respond to the possibility of a resurgence of COVID-19 during the post-peak period, recovery and transition phases of the pandemic. This will ensure safe and quality outcomes for both patients and providers.

#### **Phase I**

The MFR Services team is actively working on setting up a system to reintegrate the MFR Program as part of our EHS pre-hospital response system. We are currently building a modified Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) for cardiac arrests including a personal protective equipment (PPE), related mask fit-testing and education module for MFRs in the coming weeks.

The initial reintegration phase will target, for the most part, 20 provincial high call volume/high frequency of cardiac arrest service areas. MFR agencies proficient in resuscitation and infection control procedures, as well as communities identified as high risk of cardiac arrest will resume response first.

Please watch for further communication on a list of the 20 priority agencies as well as training dates/times and locations.

#### **Phase II**

While our initial focus is on reopening the 20 high call volume agencies, our plan is to evaluate and strive towards timely opening of the remaining agencies across the province. We are currently working on a provincial training plan/schedule as mentioned above for all remaining agencies. These dates will be communicated in the very near future.

Please note, securing sufficient PPE resources for MFR agencies continues to be a global challenge and we are working to find solutions to help ensure service resumption can safely move forward as planned.

Additionally, the MFR Services team is developing a MFR PPE supply chain model and standard in anticipation of the initial resumption.

We would like to thank all agencies and responders for their support during these unprecedented times. One of the most difficult things to do as a first responder is "not to respond" and your understanding is a true testament of such a committed group that has public health and safety in mind. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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