





EMS SYSTEM ADVISORY #2019-01/10

TO: Riverside County EMS System

FROM: Reza Vaezazizi MD, Medical Director 
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SUBJECT: EMS System – Seasonal Surge Preparation (Week 01)

DATE: January 10, 2019

The Riverside County EMS Agency (REMSA) is closely monitoring the impact of the 2018/19 influenza season on the EMS system. During week 1 (12/30/18 – 1/5/19), there was a total of 2885 emergency ambulance transports - a **1.7%** increase over the previous week's 2837 transports. The number of Ambulance Patient Offload Delays (APODs) in week 1 was 595, which is **24.2%** above the previous week total of 479 APODs. County-wide APOD hours for week 1 totaled over 238, which is **99.8%** higher than the previous week's 119 hours. Please see the linked Special Seasonal Reports.

- **Week 1:** <http://remsa.us/documents/reports/APOT/2019APOTSPECIALweek1.pdf>
- **Week 52:** <http://remsa.us/documents/reports/APOT/2018APOTSPECIALweek52.pdf>

All current and future reports for the 2018/19 influenza season can be found at:

- <http://www.rivcoems.org/Documents/Reports-Current>

New this season, Influenza-like Illness (ILI) surveillance has been added to improve situational awareness, and to support and reinforce the ambulance transport and APOT trends. In Week 1, EMS ILI response increased by **26.8%** compared to the previous week and was **90.6%** higher than the current seasonal average.

Lastly, EMS Providers and Hospitals are urged to utilize REMSA Policy 4204 to mitigate APODs and ensure EMS resources are available for emergency responses. <http://www.remsa.us/policy/4204>

EMS personnel are responsible for immediately returning to response ready status once patient care has been transferred to ED medical personnel and the patient has been offloaded from the ambulance gurney. (Policy 4204, p.2)

Designated receiving hospitals have a responsibility to ensure policies and processes are in place that facilitates the rapid and appropriate transfer of patient care from EMS personnel to the ED medical personnel within 30 minutes of arrival at the ED. (Policy 4204, p.2)

If you have general questions, please contact the EMS Agency at (951) 358-5029, or for an urgent matter, the **REMSA Duty Officer at (951) 712-3342**.

