



March 26, 2020

To: Dialysis Facilities in San Joaquin County

Cc: Hospital Infection Preventionists

From: Maggie Park, MD, Interim Health Office 

Subject: Safely Providing Hemodialysis to Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

It is essential that all hemodialysis clinics are prepared to serve patients who may have COVID-19, just as you do for other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza. This includes patients who either have a positive lab test for COVID-19 or are suspected of having COVID-19, but do not need to be hospitalized. The CDC guidance document *Interim Additional Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Outpatient Hemodialysis Facilities* (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/dialysis.html>) outlines steps to take to prepare your facility and staff for serving these patients.

When COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed in a patient receiving hemodialysis at the facility, additional measures should be followed per CDC guidance document *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings* (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>).

An essential part of infection control is having the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the staff. If you need assistance in obtaining PPE, contact the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SJCEMSA). Information on how to request PPE supplies is on the following pages. PPE includes gloves, N95 masks (N95 respirators), paper gowns, goggles or face shields and surgical masks. Before contacting SJCEMSA you need to gather the follow information: how many supplies are already on hand of each; how fast you anticipate using them (burn rate) if you had an outbreak; how much you need for about a month.

When testing your dialysis patients for COVID-19 only a nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen is needed and only use synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts. Place swab into a sterile tube containing 2-3 ml of viral transport media. Many large commercial laboratories are now testing, or you can contact San Joaquin County Public Health Services at the number below for availability of testing at the Public Health Lab.

If you have any questions about this letter please call San Joaquin County Public Health Services. It is also important and legally required that you **report all cases of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 and any outbreak in your facility to SJCPHS at (209) 468-3828 immediately.**



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Directions for Requesting Medical and Health Resources from San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency

SJCEMSA coordinates all medical and health mutual aid resource requests within San Joaquin County. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has a mutual-aid supply of N-95 respirators and other PPE to help supplement the normal PPE supply chain. The EMS DOC Logistics Branch is available to assist with resource ordering Monday through Friday from 0700-1800 by contacting 209-468-6818 or by email with subject "Resource Request" to: emsdutyofficer@sjgov.org.

Detailed information on how to request resources is available here:

- <https://www.sjgov.org/ems/PDF/HowtoRequestMedHealthPPEinWebEOCQRG.pdf>
- <https://www.sjgov.org/ems/videos/How to Request MH MA PPE.mp4>

The process for non-members of the San Joaquin Operational Area Healthcare Coalition to request PPE through the MHOAC program

1. Join the San Joaquin Operational Area Healthcare Coalition
 - a. Visit the coalition website <https://www.sjgov.org/ems/coalition.htm>
 - b. Familiarize yourself with the coalition, by reviewing the coalition governance document and interactive video presentation
 - c. Complete and submit the Healthcare Coalition Participation Agreement Form, specifying that you want to join the Emergency Preparedness Committee
<https://www.sjgov.org/ems/PDF/SJOAHealthcareCoalitionParticipationAgreement.pdf>
 - d. Complete and submit the Emergency Preparedness Committee participation agreement form
 - i. <https://www.sjgov.org/ems/PDF/SJOAEPCParticipationAgreement.pdf>
2. Complete and submit a WebEOC user account request for all personnel authorized by your organization to request mutual aid resources
 - a. Visit the WebEOC page <https://www.sjgov.org/ems/webeocinfo.htm>
 - i. Single user account request
<https://www.sjgov.org/ems/WebEOCEnrollment.aspx>
 - ii. Multiple user account requests
https://www.sjgov.org/ems/PDF/WebEOC_User_Reg_Request.pdf
 - b. Familiarize yourself with how to use WebEOC, by watching the online video tutorials located at the bottom of the WebEOC page.
3. Contact Phil Cook, if you need assistance with any of steps listed above
 - a. Phone 209-468-6818
 - b. Email pcook@sjgov.org