




County of El Dorado

Emergency Medical Services Agency

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PARAMEDIC ALERT

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TO: EMS Personnel

FROM: David Brazzel, M.D., El Dorado County EMS Agency

SUBJECT: Update on Advanced Airway Management and Use of Nebulized Medications Associated with COVID-19 Treatment and transport

This Paramedic Alert will serve as an update to the previous direction of COVID-19 treatment and transport.

The presentation of early COVID-19 infections is commonly seen as an acute respiratory illness or influenza-like illness. Aerosol-generating procedures increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other infections.

Aerosol-generating procedures, including nebulized medications, CPAP, BVM, and advanced airway management, should be avoided whenever possible. When advanced airway management is necessary, supraglottic airway devices (i.e. Air Q-SP) are preferred over endotracheal intubation. If an aerosol-generating procedure must be performed, EMS personnel should wear an N95 mask, PAPR or equivalent, and appropriate PPE.

If nebulization of medication is unavoidable, the current recommendation is to nebulize the medication in an open air environment. Application of this would be outside of the ambulance before transport or after arrival to the receiving facility, but prior to entry of the receiving facility.