



**Emergency Medical Services  
of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.**  
169 CenterPoint Blvd., Jenkins Twp., Pennsylvania 18640

Timothy D. Rowland  
PRESIDENT

John E. Campos  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

EMSNP Interim Guidance-03

April 7, 2020

**Guidance on Cardiac Arrest**

PPE:

- A surgical mask for both EMS personal and patient's suffering non-respiratory cardiac arrest is recommended (ie. collapse on treadmill). This will aid in unnecessary depletion of critical supplies such as N95.
- Don PPE, including currently recommended airborne precautions, prior to approaching patients with undetermined or possible influenza like illness (ILI) causes of cardiac arrest.
- In possible ILI causes of cardiac arrest, it is reasonable to consider barriers such as translucent plastic drape or canopy\* over patient's head to limit aerosols during aerosolizing procedures such as BVM, airway management and CPR.

*\* Refer to the documents on our website for further information on how to construct a canopy*

Specs Geisinger EMS Airway Hood

Use of Geisinger EMS Airway Hood 4-6-20

**Click the Links ABOVE to access reference documentation**

Transport:

- Evidence shows that the best survival in cardiac arrest is associated with treating the patient where they are found and attempting resuscitation until ROSC or termination of efforts at the scene. Avoiding transport of adult patients with CPR in progress leads to best survival and outcomes. Please refer to ALS Guideline 3091 – Termination of Resuscitation. BLS is also specified in this guideline under Criteria (A)(1)(d). This avoidance of transport is even more important during viral pandemic to reduce exposure to individuals unnecessarily by transporting patients without ROSC to an emergency department.
- Infrequently, there may be perceived benefit by the EMS provider to transport with CPR in progress (ie. suspected accidental hypothermia), please contact medical command early in the patient's course of care for guidance.
- During transport, should a patient with possible ILI decompensate requiring CPR in progress, call receiving facility prior to entering a facility for considerations to limit unnecessary exposure.

**Elizabeth Linkenheil, DO  
Medical Director**