



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA EMS, INC.

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**MEMORANDUM
URGENT INFORMATION**

To: Public Health, County Health Officers, Hospital Administrators, Hospital CNOs, ALS, BLS and AIR Providers, Sheriffs' Offices

From: Dr. Jeffrey Kepple, Medical Director Nor-Cal EMS

Date: April 2, 2020

Subject: Local Optional Scope Postmortem NP Swab for EMTs, AEMTs, Paramedics

In consideration of the remote and rural nature of Nor-Cal EMS counties, I am adding one additional piece to the Local Optional Scope of Practice regarding nasopharyngeal swabs for Covid-19. Given that most rural counties are unable to support the services of a full-time coroner, and that this duty is often delegated to the Sheriff, it is now hereby permissible for Paramedics, EMTs and AEMTs to obtain post-mortem NP swabs for Covid-19 under the following circumstances only:

1. During the State of Emergency for Covid-19
2. Training and competency completed for NP swab collection (see LOS guidelines previously disseminated)
3. Paramedics, EMTs, AEMTs are on scene due to 911 call
4. Unknown cause of death **and** reasonable suspicion for Covid-19 (i.e. recent URI, fever)
5. Coroner, **or** Sheriff, **or** other law enforcement are on scene to receive swab and accept responsibility for coordination with Public Health, specimen transfer, and paperwork requirements for specimen
6. PPE requirements maintained as for living patient

We sincerely hope this is an unusual and low volume occurrence during this pandemic.

Thank you for doing all you can to protect others and yourselves.

Jeffrey Kepple MD

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