

To: All AMR Contra Costa County Field Personnel

From: Brandon Niven, Interim Clinical Education Specialist

Date: July 23, 2020

**Re: HEPA filters to be used with BVMs coming soon**

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AMR Contra Costa County has now been able to secure HEPA filters to be used in conjunction with BVMs for use with patients in cardiac arrest, with ineffective breathing, etc. Below is a picture of the type of HEPA filter you should soon expect to see on the ambulance:

**ALWAYS** don full PPE when utilizing a HEPA filter, and connect the HEPA filter as close to the patient as possible, i.e. to the face mask or advanced airway.



Q: When will these be on the ambulances, and where will they be located?

A: As soon as we receive the HEPA filters and are able to deploy them, an on-duty supervisor in each zone will face-to-face with you at the start of your shift to confirm that you are aware. 2 (two) HEPA filters will be located in each ambulance, with 1 (one) in each airway roll.

Q: How do HEPA filters work?

A: They filter expired air from the patient, with a bacterial and viral filtration efficiency of 99.99%.

Q: How do I apply a HEPA filter to a BVM?

A: HEPA filters are placed in-line between the face mask or advanced airway and ETCO2 sensor, just like an in-line nebulizer.

Q: When do I use a HEPA filter with a BVM?

A: HEPA filter use with a BVM applies to any situation you would otherwise provide assisted ventilations, i.e. cardiac arrest, ineffective breathing, etc.

Q: Can HEPA filters be used with a CPAP?

A: For patients in extremis or peri-arrest, HEPA filters can be used with a CPAP.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact your division supervisor or CES.