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## ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN

No. 21-CLN-002

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**TO:** Contra Costa County 911 EMS Transport Providers

**FROM:** Dr. Senai Kidane, EMS Medical Director

**DATE:** February 10, 2021

**SUBJECT: PES at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC)**

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Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC) is continuing its efforts to mitigate the impacts of the COVID pandemic on its operations. Part of that strategy is to perform point-of-care SARS-CoV-2 antigen testing quickly on all arriving patients, most of whom will be segregated and screened in a separate room as part of the triage process. After intake and initial assessment has occurred, it may occasionally be necessary to keep a patient arriving by ambulance on the EMS gurney. The most common scenario where this occurs is for an agitated, restrained patient that requires IM medications/sedatives before they can be safely transferred to a bed or chair. For this smaller subset of patients, PES would like to test/screen these patients while the patient is still on the EMS gurney if deemed safe for patient and staff to do so. We understand that there is often a wait just to get into PES for intake and are sensitive to concerns of additional, unnecessary delay in transfer that this process may create. PES leadership assures us the goal with this request is not to cause further delay and that the patient will continue to be transferred to an available bed or chair at the earliest moment it becomes safe to do so. The intention also is not for patients to wait for test results on the gurney. Since judgment will certainly come into play when deciding when a patient is not yet safe enough to come off the EMS gurney, but cooperative enough to allow nasal swabbing, we request flexibility and good communication with PES staff throughout this process. As always, thank you for your attention and cooperation during these difficult times.