



State of Maryland

**Maryland  
Institute for  
Emergency Medical  
Services Systems**

653 West Pratt Street  
Baltimore, Maryland  
21201-1536

*Larry Hogan  
Governor*

*Clay B. Stamp, NRP  
Chairman  
Emergency Medical  
Services Board*

*Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH  
Executive Director*

410-706-5074  
FAX 410-706-4768

TO: EMS CARES Coordinators  
EMSOP Highest Jurisdictional Officials (JAC)  
EMSOP Medical Directors

FROM: Timothy P. Chizmar, MD, FACEP  
State EMS Medical Director

DATE: April 17, 2020

RE: COVID-19 for CARES Records

As requested by the CARES program, please note the following guidance when completing the cardiac arrest tab in the eMEDS patient care report:

1. If the patient has respiratory symptoms prior to their cardiac arrest and is:
  - Known to be COVID-19 positive or
  - Previously evaluated by a medical professional and told they were likely clinically COVID-19 positive or
  - Showing a high degree of suspicion based upon the patient having symptoms and being in a known COVID-19 location like a nursing home, personal residence or healthcare facility

Then, for “Presumed Arrest Etiology? (CARES-21)”, please select “Other” and in the free text field, type “COVID-19”.

2. If the patient has respiratory symptoms prior to the arrest and the COVID-19 status is unknown and/or not felt to be the primary etiology of the arrest (COPD, asthma exacerbation, etc. are more likely), please code this call as "Respiratory" etiology.

If you have any questions, please email Melanie Gertner (MD CARES Coordinator) at [mgertner@miemss.org](mailto:mgertner@miemss.org).