



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 Clinicians  
Highest Jurisdictional Officials  
Medical Directors

From: Clay B. Stamp, NRP, Chairman, EMS Board  Theodore Delbridge, MD, MPH, Executive Director 

Timothy Chizmar, MD, FACEP  
State EMS Medical Director 

Date: July 7, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Testing After Termination of Resuscitation in the Field

This emergency protocol addendum is being issued by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, after approval by the Executive Director of MIEMSS and the Chairman of the State Emergency Medical Services Board, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with Education Article Section 13-516(d)(1) and COMAR 30.03.05.02(1) and a catastrophic health emergency proclamation.

Given the continued transmission of COVID-19 in the State of Maryland, along with an increase in out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCA), we amend the Termination of Resuscitation protocol with the following addendum, which is effective immediately.

**After termination of resuscitation in the field, a BLS or ALS clinician may perform nasopharyngeal testing for COVID-19 if the deceased person is not anticipated to be a medical examiner's case.**

The option to test the patient is intended for cases when a resuscitative effort was made, and not for expired patients with no resuscitative effort. Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn. Nasopharyngeal specimens should be labeled and sent for testing following local jurisdictional procedures. Nasopharyngeal swabbing procedures shall be documented, including which nostril was used, in the patient's eMEDS record.

Jurisdictions wishing to participate in COVID testing of patients pronounced in the field should provide training in specimen collection and local procedures to their EMS clinicians. For reference, training resources for COVID-19 testing may be found here:

Maryland EMS COVID-19 Testing Procedure  
<https://www.miemss.org/home/infectious-diseases>

Obtaining Swab Specimen for COVID Testing  
[www.emsonlinetraining.org](http://www.emsonlinetraining.org)

References:

*Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS* (2020 edition)  
Termination of Resuscitation p. 66-71  
Pronouncement of Death in the Field p. 72