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**MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

JANUARY 4, 2020

TO: EMERGENCY RECEIVING CENTER (ERC) HOSPITALS
AMBULANCE PROVIDERS
911 PARAMEDIC PROVIDERS
HOSPITAL CEOs
BASE HOSPITAL COORDINATORS
CONTROL 1 SUPERVISORS

FROM: CARL H. SCHULTZ, MD 
EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR
ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH CARE AGENCY

SUBJECT: RE-INITIATING SUSPENSION OF AMBULANCE DIVERSION

After allowing ambulance diversion by ERCs for more than a week, the previously described metrics that measure hospital capacity to receive ambulances from the field have again deteriorated. As a result, OCEMS is forced to reinstate the ban on ambulance diversion, effective tonight, January 4, 2020, at 7 PM (1900 hours).

OCEMS has recorded 90% APOT of 62 minutes yesterday for the county as a whole. In addition, 22 hospitals initiated diversion (15 hospitals on diversion for ≥ 10 hours) for a total of 285 hours during the last 24 hours, representing essentially half of our total EMS capacity.

As stated previously, the suspension of ambulance diversion for all Orange County ERCs will remain in effect until the 90% APOT show improvement over time.

OCEMS will continue to monitor the status of the EMS system and participating hospitals, and be prepared to take additional action as needed.

CHS:chs#3926