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**MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

January 25, 2021

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

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

SUBJECT: REINSTATING DIVERSION FOR ORANGE COUNTY ERCs

The Orange County EMS system has now recorded consistently improving metrics over the last 7-10 days. Data elements including 90% APOTs, hospital and ICU COVID census, total 911 transports and those with influenza-like illness, and number of individuals testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 on a daily basis are all decreasing. Therefore, emergency departments throughout the county will once again be able to initiate ambulance diversion, effective at 7 PM (1900 hours) tonight, January 25, 2021. The ability to go on diversion will remain in effect until EMS system data elements demonstrate a deterioration in conditions.

Please note that OCEMS Policy # 310.96 Guidelines for ERC Request for Diversion Status is still in effect. If the three ERCs most accessible to an incident location are closed to ED saturation, this diversion status will not be recognized and the patient will be transferred to the most accessible appropriate receiving hospital.

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

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