

Rural EMS Transport and Transfer Destination Process for Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19 Patients - FAQ

The purpose of this flow map is to improve communications and transition from the scene to appropriate site of care for the COVID patient. Also addresses the transfer process of the patient from a rural facility to a higher level of care.

Audience: Emergency departments, RAAPID and EMS practitioners

Why did EMS take a patient from their home in our community to a different hospital?

As is current practice for EMS, if the EMS practitioner deems that the patient will likely require a higher level of care/testing than can be provided within the local hospital, they will consult with their online medical control (OLMC) physician to discuss their options. OLMC will collaborate with RAAPID as the primary point of contact to determine the best place for that patient to be brought for care.

How does EMS decide where to bring an unstable COVID-19 patient?

EMS will contact their OLMC for direction. OLMC will collaborate with RAAPID as the primary point of contact to determine the best place for the patient to be brought for care. In some cases, the closest facility may be the best option for stabilizing an unstable patient.

Why would EMS bring a rural facility an unstable COVID-19 patient as opposed to carrying on to a larger centre?

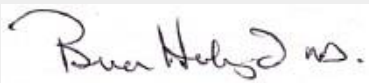
In some cases, it may be necessary for EMS to bring an unstable COVID-19 patient into a rural facility in order to secure an airway and attempt to stabilize the patient for transport to another facility. In doing so, they will work through their OLMC to communicate the patient's needs and their OLMC will communicate with RAAPID and, where necessary, the local hospital. In the OLMC decision making process they will consider the skills of the EMS crew, the local hospital's resources, and physician availability and comfort with intubation. In such cases where EMS stops with an unstable patient, OLMC and/or RAAPID will be working to coordinate the patient's transfer to another facility even before EMS arrives at the local site.

We have a suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patient that requires more care than we can provide here. What should we do?

Call RAAPID to arrange a consult and/or transfer. RAAPID is prepared to coordinate transportation for any patient.

Why do I need to involve RAAPID when I want to transfer a patient to another hospital?


RAAPID is a call centre designed to provide a single point of contact for physicians and health care providers to access appropriate and timely advice, referral, admission, repatriation and consultation for patients. They have access to real time capacity information and can coordinate transportation to the most appropriate destination.



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