



Emergency Medical Services
Partners

February 2022, Issue 129

health.uconn.edu/ems

COVID Watch

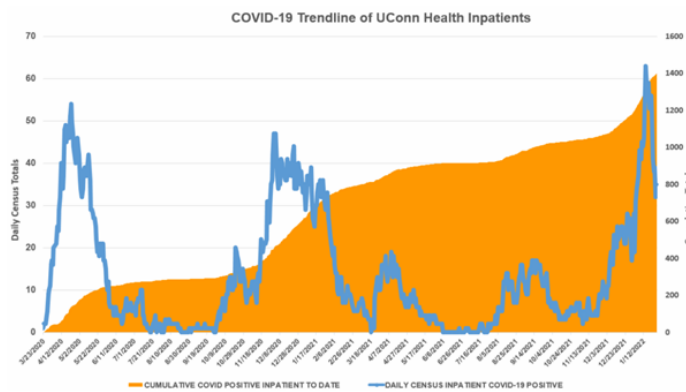
While the Omicron wave of the COVID pandemic seems to be waning, the number of cases is still high, and the need for protection of both you and your patients is important.



EMS providers should remain vigilant, being sure to wear masks (N95 is preferred) at all times during patient care, and to properly gown up when dealing with patients suspected to be COVID positive.

If you are feeling unwell, get tested. We also urge all health care providers to not only get vaccinated, but obtain a booster shot as they can help protect you from death and serious illness. These shots are mandatory for UConn Health employees.

As a reminder, due to COVID, no visitors are allowed in the UConn Emergency Department.



Hypothermia Care

With frigid temperatures besieging our state in recent weeks and more winter ahead, brush up on your hypothermia care.

When dealing with hypothermic patients:

Avoid rough movement and excess activity.

Prevent further heat loss:

- o Insulate from the ground and shield from wind/water.
 - o Move to a warm environment.
 - o Gently remove any wet clothing and dry patient.
 - o Cover with warm blankets. Cover the head and neck. Maintain horizontal position.
- Apply truncal warm packs.

Consider covering the patient's mouth and nose with a surgical mask to prevent respiratory heat loss.

PEARLS:

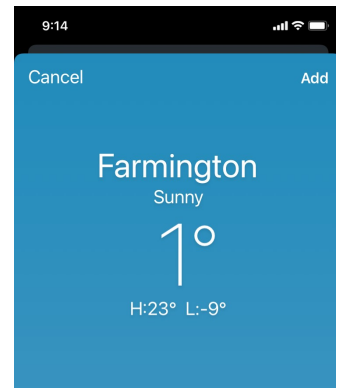
Patients with severe frost bite injury may benefit from urgent treatment with IV TPA at a burn center. Most digital thermometers will not read below 35°C (95° F).

Hypothermic patients are often significantly dehydrated, and may require repeat fluid boluses.

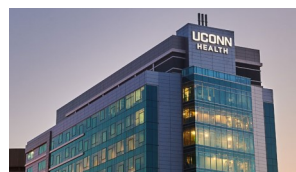
Transportation with continuing CPR may be justified if hypothermia is present or suspected.

And Stay Warm Yourselfes! Stay Hydrated! Eat Fruit! Enjoy Hot Soup! Get Plenty of Sleep! Be Well!

Source: CT EMS Treatment Protocols



**Mission:
Lifeline®**



Great EMS Care

Kudos to **Derrick Caranci** and **Dave Harriman** of **Simsbury Ambulance**.

A recent stroke/TIA patient's family told our staff that the pair were quick, respectful, efficient and knowledgeable when they cared for him. They knew the patient was in great hands with the providers that were at the scene.

We love hearing this about our community's EMS responders, and we are not surprised by the comments. We appreciate the work you do. Care for patients begins not at our hospital doors, but with EMS teammates. Keep up the great work all!



Mechanical CPR Devices

The 2020 AHA Guidelines state:

*"The **routine use** of mechanical CPR is **not recommended**." The guidelines also state: "the use of mechanical CPR devices may be considered in specific settings where the delivery of high-quality manual compressions may be dangerous for the provider, as long as rescuers strictly limit interruptions in CPR during deployment and removal of the device."*



In cardiac arrest the goal is immediate uninterrupted chest compressions. Per state EMS guidelines:

Consider delaying application of mechanical CPR devices until after the first four cycles (8 minutes). If applied during the first 4 cycles, the goal is to limit interruptions. Mechanical devices should only be used by services that are practiced and skilled at their application.

The senior EMS responder on scene is responsible for insuring quality compressions are being done. Lengthy or improper placement is detrimental to outcome. Responders should also remember that it is expected, unless special circumstances are present, that resuscitation will be performed on scene until ROSC or termination of efforts.

UConn Health JDH EMS Website

For news, educational information, CME schedule and past copies of our newsletter *Partners*, check out our website at:

health.uconn.edu/ems



UConn EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION 2022



March 16, 2022



April 20, 2022

May 18, 2022

June 15, 2022

September 21, 2022

October 19, 2022

November 16, 2022

December 21, 2022

(3 Hours CME)

For Questions:

email Peter Canning at canning@uchc.edu

ALL EMS RESPONDERS WELCOME

Online Virtual CME

8:30-11:30 A.M.

3rd Wednesday!

<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/j.php?MTID=m916b5a3cf93a7d9c98d2570e49cbb29f>

CONTACT US:

Any questions or suggestions about EMS?
Looking for patient follow-up?



Contact EMS Coordinator Peter Canning at canning@uchc.edu or call (860) 679-3485.