A message for EMTs, Advanced EMTs, and Paramedics

As coronavirus cases have continued to rise in North Dakota, it is imperative that we bolster our capacity to test for coronavirus, trace those identified as being infected with the virus and their close contacts, and appropriately isolate or quarantine those in danger of infecting others. This is how we will be able to control the virus and get back to the way that things used to be. You can help in this effort by assisting the Department of Health (NDDoH) and Local Public Health Units (LPHUs) with the testing process.

Since early in the coronavirus emergency, a limited number of ambulance services and EMS personnel have been used to help with testing efforts, including assisting with testing site management, data collection, and specimen collection. EMS personnel have proven to be a valuable adjunct to the testing effort so the NDDoH would like to expand EMS participation to all areas of the state.

You can help by working directly for the NDDoH or working with your ambulance service to assist LPHUs. The NDDoH hires EMTs, Advanced EMTs, and Paramedics for testing missions throughout the state. These positions can be full-time or part-time and pay based upon your licensure level. Currently, the hourly wage for EMTs and AEMTs is $30/hour and for paramedics, $42/hour. The NDDoH also reimburses for travel-related expenses, including meals and overnight stays.

The other way to help is through your ambulance service. LPHUs coordinate testing within their service areas (usually a county or multi-county region). Depending on their testing strategy, LPHUs may need the assistance of more personnel than are available within their respective staffs. Your ambulance service may have personnel that are available to assist the LPHUs when they are conducting testing events. Should your ambulance service and its personnel help with testing, the NDDoH will reimburse the ambulance service for its assistance. LPHUs often need just one or two individuals to help with testing and the testing is usually offered locally, so little travel is required.

The training needed to assist with testing events is brief and builds upon your existing EMS training. It is provided by the NDDoH or LPHUs as appropriate.

To apply for a position with the NDDoH please visit https://www.health.nd.gov/careers and select COVID Response Medical Team. These positions have an expedited hiring process. For more information about these positions please contact Kari Kuhn at kkuhn@nd.gov.

To assist LPHUs via your ambulance service please contact your ambulance service squad leader to inform him/her of your interest. Should your ambulance service elect to participate, your squad leader will make that know to the LPHU(s) serving your area.
For all other questions or to request additional information please contact Chris Price at 701-328-4728 or cprice@nd.gov.

Thank you for all that you do for your fellow North Dakotans and please stay safe,

Christopher Price, Director
Division of Emergency Medical Systems
North Dakota Department of Health

Thanks,

Chris

Christopher Price, MPA, NRP
Deputy Chief, Health Resources and Response Section
Director, Division of Emergency Medical Systems

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