



MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD

Chad Borin, DO, FACOEP, Chair
St. Anthony Hospital

Russell Anderson, DO, Vice Chair
Hillcrest Hospital South

David Smith, MD, Secretary
Baptist Medical Center

Roxie Albrecht, MD, FACS
OU Medical Center – Trauma

Barrett Bradt, MD
St. Francis Hospital

Jeffrey Dixon, MD, FACEP
Hillcrest Medical Center

David Gearhart, DO, FACOEP
OSU Medical Center

Karyn Koller, MD
OU Medical Center

John Nalagan, MD, FACEP
Mercy Health Center

Keri Smith, DO
Integris Southwest Hospital

Michael Smith, MD, FACEP
St. John Medical Center

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

David Howerton, NRP
Division Chief – Medical Oversight - West

Duffy McAnallen, NRP
Division Chief – Medical Oversight - East

Matt Cox, NRP
Division Chief - Critical Care Analytics

Kimberly Hale
Administrative Assistant

Curtis Knoles, MD, FAAP
Assistant Chief Medical Officer

Jeffrey M. Goodloe, MD, NRP, FACEP, FAEMS
Chief Medical Officer

Update 28 - COVID-19 – From Office of the Medical Director 12 JUN2020 1500

To: All EMS Personnel in the EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City & Tulsa

Key Content:

- **Educational Resource – The Osterholm Update – Episode 11**
- **The Challenge of Asymptomatic Spread? The WHO disagrees (for a bit)**
- **Use Only as Directed – But Many Aren't! – CDC**
- **Be Wary – A Summer of COVID-19 Ahead**

Educational Resource – The Osterholm Update – Episode 11

Dr. Osterholm's latest podcast, number 11 of The Osterholm Update 11, is posted on the CIDRAP website with release date 10 JUN. This is a great discussion on a spectrum of topics, including following through on the recent Special Edition podcast on mask effectiveness, the persistent issue of "persistent positive" COVID-19 antigen tests, some of the impacts of business, school, and public event closings in March-April in the US among a host of other aspects. It's a nicely balanced menu of issues facing us now.

You can access it at this link: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/podcasts-webinars/episode-11> or The Osterholm Update is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or Google Play.

The Challenge of Asymptomatic Spread? – The WHO disagrees (for a bit)

On the heels of Update 27, as in literally within six hours of its release, I came across this CNBC news release that the World Health Organization (WHO) seems to disagree that asymptomatic individuals with COVID-19 pose much of a challenge in community spread. Hmm. That sure disagrees with everything else I've researched and read. So to be fair to multiple points of view, here's a report on their thoughts: <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/08/asymptomatic-coronavirus-patients-arent-spreading-new-infections-who-says.html>

There used to be a Wendy's Hamburgers commercial years ago with a lady that became a bit famous for asking, "Where's the beef?" I think I'll channel her enthusiasm and ask the WHO (sincerely and with respect), "Where's the data?"

And interestingly, there seemed to be a heck of a lot of similarly minded folks asking for the same. If you were following this thread this week, the WHO made some steps the next day to walk that assertion back. This was nicely covered in STAT: <https://www.statnews.com/2020/06/09/who-comments-asymptomatic-spread-covid-19/>

For those of you BLUF (bottom line up front) fans, here's a twist in a BLUB (bottom line up back): We don't know what the prevalence of COVID-19 is in the United States, let alone the world. We don't know if an asymptomatic COVID-19 individual spreads it easier or not than a symptomatic COVID-19 individual. We don't know why certain people are fortunate to have asymptomatic COVID-19 and others that are seemingly healthy at baseline experience rapid death. I respect Dr. Osterholm's willingness to say, "I don't know." until sufficient evidence exists that we can accurately know.

I believe we'll continue to learn far more about COVID-19 in the weeks, months, and frankly years ahead. The current investigations – some incredibly well designed, others more junk than science – are in the thousands and will only grow as additional waves of infections exist. No one can begin to accurately report any long-term effects of COVID-19 health wise because there doesn't yet exist a long term.

It's important to keep such concepts in mind with any news items about COVID-19. Remember that skeptics aren't naysayers or nihilists; skeptics simply consciously watch out for and work to avoid false securities.

Use Only as Directed – But Many Aren't! – CDC

A worrisome, though not surprising, report is from the CDC on how Americans are mis-using home cleaners and disinfectants in well-intended efforts to remain healthy. Ironically, misusing these substances can lead to illness, not protect us from it. There really is some wisdom in reading the label and using only as directed by the manufacturer. Here's this CDC report: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6923e2.htm?s_cid=mm6923e2_w

Use this as a reminder for your family and friends that while we fortunately have access to cleaners that can help keep our homes safer from the SARS-CoV-2 virus, every precaution requires its own caution, so to speak. Keep this in mind when assessing patients with respiratory and gastrointestinal complaints. You might just uncover the reason for their symptoms when asking about any recent use of household cleaners.

Be Wary – A Summer of COVID-19 Ahead



If you saw the vehicle pictured in your neighborhood, I'm confident exactly NONE of you would send your kids over for gratis confections. If anything, you'd directly investigate or call our law enforcement colleagues. Use that same "something doesn't look right" intuition when you hear Summer 2020 will be fine, heat will scare coronavirus away, and any second wave is a figment more than a foe. Rising numbers of new local cases of COVID-19 reported by Tulsa Health Department within the past few days should be respected.

All of you know first-hand that patient volumes are returning to pre-viral pandemic levels quickly as evidenced by daily EMS calls. Amongst those calls will be increasing numbers of COVID-19 patients – some will suspect they have it and others won't. Stay PPE smart and avoid any "free candy" COVID vans!

Vigilance. Safety. Evidence-Based Service to Others.

Let's be careful out there.

Dr. Goodloe

1111 Classen Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73103-2616 • 1417 N. Lansing • Tulsa, OK 74106
(405) 297-7173 Telephone • (405) 297-7199 Fax • www.okctulsaomd.com