Date: January 6, 2022

To: All Staff

From: Rich Cearns

Subject: Nebulized Medications

It is the goal of Umatilla County Fire District # 1 to adapt practices based on the newest and best guidance to ensure the health and safety of our personnel while balancing the needs of the organization, the citizens we serve, stakeholders, and most importantly, our members.

There is no such thing as the perfect policy, or directive that covers all situations. We hire, train, and promote the best and smartest staff and volunteers available to us. We expect you to use good judgement. The following directive provides guidance for nebulized medication administration. Please use this document as guidance to make good decisions in the case of a situations that is not addressed here.

See below for a change regarding nebulized medications:

* In order to reduce risks of transmission to personnel and others, aerosol generating procedures should be avoided unless deemed absolutely necessary. If a nebulizer treatment is deemed necessary, and no other alternative treatment is feasible, reasonable, or safe, efforts should be made to administer the treatment in the patient’s home prior to transport. If the patient is critical and transport is urgent, do not withhold treatment while transporting. If deemed necessary to administer nebulized medications during transport, utilize the exhaust fan in the box compartment.
* All PPE, including an P100 mask must be worn while administering nebulized medications.
* Remember, we have alternative treatment modalities with asthma and COPD to include Epinephrine, Mag Sulfate (OLMC required), and Dexamethasone.
* Discontinue nebulized medication before entering the hospital
* All other policies will remain in effect.

As some of you know, we are in the process of revising our county protocols. This change will be reflected in the upcoming publication. Please continue to use your best judgment with COVID. We have been successful with keeping COVID out of the stations and we want to keep it that way.

If you have any questions or concerns, please, do not hesitate to bring them forward.