

## EMS WEEK IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

Since 1974, the United States of America has seen fit to recognize EMS workers with a week that focuses on their selfless service. The EMT's, Paramedics, and EMS Physicians that serve our communities during the tragic and difficult events deserve special recognition every year, this year however requires an extra degree of attention due to the worldwide pandemic Novel Coronavirus Covid-19. The worldwide threat to health reminds us how lucky we are to be able to call on medical professionals day and night whenever we have a lifesaving need. The nationwide theme of EMS Week 2020 is *"Ready for Today, Preparing for Tomorrow"*, and is an appropriate description of what our hometown crews have been doing.

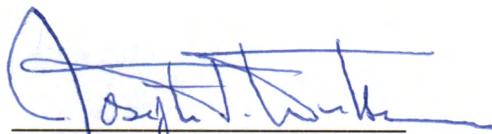
Our prehospital providers have been in the frontline of preparing for and responding to the global crisis. They have been pulled into new roles and met every new challenge with grace and determination. Every provider has been impacted in some way. Many have been directly exposed to the virus, some have had to isolate themselves from their family, and all have had to consider what risks are associated with every single patient.

In Fayette County, our EMS workers have assisted with transporting patients to specialized hospitals which required them to be in hot and uncomfortable protection gear for hours at a time. They helped to acquire and supply hand sanitizer and other PPE, and developed innovative techniques for mass decontamination. They developed partnerships with all first responders and even the US Military to assist when needed. They have assisted citizens who are confined to their home, and given them piece of mind by demonstrating advanced diagnostic tools and techniques.

In addition, EMS has rapidly developed an understanding of the epidemiology of disease spread, and stay abreast of the frequent changes to evaluation and treatment recommendations.

We thank our excellent frontline EMS workers for the day they do every day, but especially during this 2020 EMS week *"Ready for Today, Preparing for Tomorrow"*.

A formal Proclamation will be forth coming at the next Commissioners Court meeting on May 28, 2020.



Joseph F. Weber  
Fayette County Judge

  
Craig Moreau  
Emergency Management Chief