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**MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES
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DATE: November 3, 2022

TO: Emergency Receiving Centers (ERCs)
911 Providers
Base Hospital Coordinators

SUBJECT: HEALTH EMERGENCY CRISIS FROM RSV IN ORANGE COUNTY

As you may be aware, Orange County has declared a health emergency due to the increasing spread of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infections in the pediatric population. It is becoming increasingly likely that in the next few days, the two pediatric hospitals in Orange County (Children's Hospital of Orange County and CHOC at Mission Hospital) will become saturated and unable to accept additional patients. This is affecting both their in-patient capacity as well as their emergency departments. Both hospitals have already entered pediatric surge mode with expansion of patient care into non-patient care areas and placed themselves on ambulance diversion for the first time in many years. As such, it may soon be necessary to begin shifting some in-patient and 911 field pediatric care to other hospitals.

Orange County EMS wants to ensure that all hospitals and 911 providers are aware of this situation. The Base Hospital Coordinators will inform their MICNs to begin utilizing other hospitals as destinations for providing pediatric care in patients from the field who are not critically ill. The 911 providers should also be aware that they should begin utilizing other ERCs as destinations for selected pediatric patients.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

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