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SPECIALIZED MEDICAL SERVICES EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

DATE: December 22, 2025

TO: Emergency Receiving Centers (ERCs)
ERC Emergency Department Medical Directors
ERC Emergency Department Administrators
ERC Hospital CEOs
Base Hospital Coordinators
MICNs

**SUBJECT: TEMPORARY INCREASE IN MONTHLY DIVERSION HOURS THROUGH
JANUARY 31, 2026**

Orange County EMS (OCEMS) has set the number of hours that ERC Emergency Departments can be on diversion at 200 hours per month. However, the county is now entering into the height of the influenza season and demand for emergency department care will likely increase. As a consequence, OCEMS will temporarily increase the number of monthly diversion hours to 225 per month through January 31, 2026, effective immediately.

At the end of this time period, OCEMS will re-assess the impact of patient care demand on emergency departments and decide if further extension of the 225-hour limit is warranted.

Carl Schultz, MD
EMS Medical Director
Orange County Health Care Agency