



## The BLANKET Newsletter

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DATE: 3/21/21

TO: NYSVARA Board of Directors

FROM: James B. Downey & Nancy Ehrhardt  
Coeditors, THE BLANKET Newsletter

SUBJECT: BLANKET Committee Report for 3/21/21 Board of Directors Meeting

### BLANKET NEWSLETTER

BLANKET Special Edition – NYSVARA 2021 Legislative Agenda was published 12/6/20. The 8 pages of the issue contained a President's Message, Legislative Committee member information and message, 3 pages covering legislation and 2 pages on the controversial 209b fire department billing proposal. The e-mail was sent to 4,606 in the Constant Contact database including 148 members of the NYS Assembly and 63 members of the NYS Senate.

BLANKET Special Edition - NYS DOH SEMSCO & SEMAC January 2021 Meeting Notes was published 2/4/21. The 21 pages of the edition had separate sections covering SEMSCO, SEMAC, committee and BEMS&TS reports.

Distribution of the BLANKET by e-mail is to over 4,500 and includes both paid up and recently lapsed individual and squad members, all REMSCOs, County EMS Coordinators plus NYS DOH Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services central and regional offices. Copies of the BLANKET are printed for distribution at various venues such as the First Responder Education Day in Nassau County in April and the annual NYSVARA Legislative Day in Albany in May.

### E-MAIL BLASTS

Constant Contact was used to send the following messages:

11/16/20 NYC REMSCO 11/17/20 Meeting Agenda and October REMSCO & REMAC Meeting Minutes  
11/27/20 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 11/24/20 Webex Update for EMS Agency Leadership & Providers  
11/27/20 NYS DOH Advisory - PPE Guidance on Use of Eye Protection by Healthcare Providers  
12/3/20 NYC Protocol Update Town Hall Meetings via ZOOM  
12/4/20 COVID-19 Vaccinations for NYC's Volunteer EMS Responders  
12/6/20 BLANKET Special Edition – NYSVARA 2021 Legislative Agenda  
12/10/20 NYC REMSCO Seeks EMT-P-MD/DO-RN-PAs for COVID-19 Vaccinations of EMS Personnel  
12/10/20 NYC REMSCO Message RE: Need for Priority 1a COVID-19 Vaccinations for EMS Personnel  
12/11/20 NYSVARA Letter to Governor & DOH Commissioner RE: COVID-19 Vaccine for EMS  
12/14/20 NYC Mutual Aid Activation - Winter Storm Beginning Wednesday 12/16/20  
12/18/20 Chevra Hatzalah Press Release 12/18/20 - New CEO

12/21/20 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 12/16/20 Webex Update for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 12/21/20 NYS DOH 12/20/20 Guidance for EMS Personnel to Receive COVID-19 Vaccinations  
 12/23/20 Notes - 12/21/20 R. Greenberg NYS BEMS&TS Briefing on EMS Vaccination Planning  
 12/25/20 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 12/23/20 Vaccination Update for Agency Leadership and Providers  
 1/2/21 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 12/30/20 Vaccination Update for Agency Leadership and Providers  
 1/8/21 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 1/6/21 Briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers  
 1/12/21 Districts 4 & 18 NYSVARA Virtual Meeting on ZOOM - Thursday, 1/21/21 at 8:00 PM  
 1/23/21 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 1/21/21 Briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers  
 1/30/21 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 1/28/21 Briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers  
 2/4/21 BLANKET Special Edition - NYS DOH SEMSCO & SEMAC January 2021 Meeting Notes  
 2/6/21 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 2/4/21 Briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers  
 2/11/21 FEMA Assistance for NYC Volunteer Ambulance COVID-19 Activation  
 2/12/21 NYC REMSCO Survey - 911 Activations and On Line Medical Control  
 2/12/21 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 2/11/21 Briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers  
 2/26/21 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 2/25/21 Briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers  
 3/1/21 Solicitation for NYC Volunteer Ambulance Coverage at Vaccination POD  
 3/8/21 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 3/4/21 Briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers  
 3/12/21 Vaccination POD Sites at Volunteer EMS Agencies  
 3/14/21 Updated Solicitation for NYC Volunteer Ambulance Coverage at Vaccination PODs  
 3/19/21 NYC REMSCO 3/23/21 Agenda, Hearing Reports and February REMSCO & REMAC Minutes  
 3/19/21 DOH Policy Statement 21-01 Community Paramedicine Vaccination Program Application Process  
 3/21/21 Notes - NYS DOH BEMS&TS 3/18/21 Briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers  
 Some notices were sent statewide while others were limited to Regions, Districts, Counties or local EMS agency leadership.

### **MEETINGS & EVENTS ATTENDED SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING**

11/17/20 NYC REMSCO & Ambulance Committee meetings via ZOOM  
 11/24/20 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 12/2/20 Nassau REMAC meeting via Webex  
 12/2/20 NYC REMSCO briefing on COVID-19 vaccination PODs for EMS providers  
 12/3/20 NYC Protocol Update Town Hall Meeting via ZOOM  
 12/4/20 NYC REMSCO briefing on COVID-19 vaccination PODs for EMS providers  
 12/16/20 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 12/21/20 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 12/23/20 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Vaccination Planning Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 12/30/20 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Vaccination Update Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 1/5/21 NYC REMAC & Medical Standards meetings via ZOOM  
 1/6/21 Nassau REMSCO meeting via Webex  
 1/6/21 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 1/12 & 1/13/21 SEMSCO, SEMAC and Committee meetings  
 1/21/21 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 1/28/21 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 2/3/21 Nassau REMAC meeting via Webex  
 2/4/21 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 2/8/21 Philipstown VAC, Putnam County ZOOM Call on Contract with town  
 2/9/21 NYC REMAC & Medical Standards meetings via ZOOM  
 2/11/21 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 2/18/21 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 2/25/21 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 3/2/21 Public Hearing RE: Ridgewood VAC expansion via ZOOM  
 3/3/21 Nassau REMSCO meeting via Webex  
 3/4/21 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers  
 3/4/21 Public Hearing RE: Forest Hills VAC expansion via ZOOM  
 3/9/21 NYC REMAC & Medical Standards meetings via ZOOM  
 3/18/21 NYS DOH BEMS&TS Briefing for EMS Leadership and Providers

## **ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

Updated the Constant Contact lists of NYS 150 Assembly and 63 Senate members to reflect changes due to the November 2020 or later elections.

## **ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF MEMBER BENEFITS**

Agreed to label and deliver to Post Office the annual notice of a no cost \$4,000 group insurance policy. The mailing is expected to be about 800 to our individual membership. Labels or an EXCEL file of members' names and home addresses were requested from the Membership Secretary on 11/13/20. The mailing should be received from National Income Life within 2 weeks. A second mailing to non-responders is expected to go out in a couple months.

800 sealed and stamped envelopes were received from NILICO on 11/25/20.

507 envelopes addressed to individual members went to the post office on Monday 11/30/20.

On 12/2/20 and 12/3/20 another 118 envelopes were sent to 3 squads that pay for all their members. I spoke to squad representatives and they will hand out or address and mail to their members.

## **CONSTANT CONTACT**

The database of contacts is currently about 4,500.

## **ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF PULSE CHECK**

Maintaining a database of potential vendors and exhibitors. We have about 1000 vendor names and addresses assembled from participation in recent trade shows and advertisements ready for PULSE CHECK mailings. We will continue to update the database in the coming year. The previous list had risen to 800 records but the information in the listing had not been re-verified or updated in years.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Database of all EMS, fire and search & rescue agencies down to the station and company level in New York is being maintained and regularly updated. Total currently is about 4,800 records. This database can be sorted by:

- District and/or Region
- county
- service type – ambulance, first responder, air or fire
- care level – BLS, AEMT-I, AEMT-CC, AEMT-P or rescue
- ownership – independent, VFD, municipal, police, college, industrial, hospital or commercial
- Regional EMS Council

Word continues to get out about our e-mail notification list, which currently totals 2,100 names statewide. It has been effective at getting information out and we are receiving regular requests from other organizations to pass on notices of events.