

# Estill County EMS is a fairly busy ambulance service

Estill County Emergency Medical Services (ECEMS) is a fairly busy ambulance service, responding to all 911 medical responses in Estill County. In addition, ECEMS transports both emergency and non-emergency patients from Marcum and Wallace, Mercy Health to other facilities, doctor's offices, or nursing homes. In 2019, ECEMS had 4,150 calls to service while running only two and a half ambulances per day (one ambulance out of our 3 daily trucks, only runs for twelve hours per day).

However, EMS services across the country are experiencing the unique challenge to support the citizens of their respective counties through the global health crisis posed by SARS-CoV2 (better known as "COVID-19;" or

simply "novel coronavirus"). However, residents should rest assured that the professionals at ECEMS are taking precautions, day and night, to protect the citizens of the county throughout the course of this disease.

Regardless of the number of potential cases present in the county, ECEMS will continue taking precautions to protect citizens from transmission of the disease. Many measures being taken are not far beyond that which would normally be required of ambulance crews. However, at this time, the most notable difference which may be most noticed by citizens requesting an ambulance is the additional use of personal protective equipment (or "PPE"); most commonly



Paramedic Brennen Younger cleaning and mopping out the truck. (Courtesy Jimmy Wise, Estill County EMS)

including gloves, masks, and eye shields. If you or a loved one requests EMS, rest assured that these measures may be normal for the current situation and should not incite fear. PPE is utilized by healthcare professionals to limit the contact between the provider and the patient, as well as to limit spread of such contact to patients which the provider may see later that day. All employees of ECEMS have been trained how to properly select, don, and doff articles (to put on and remove) of PPE which would be appropriate for containment of potential COVID exposure.

Further, there are many

measures which employees of ECEMS are taking behind-the-scenes to ensure there is no spread of disease between community members. First, each individual must record their temperature prior to entering the ECEMS station and are asked a series of screening questions. Individuals are not permitted enter the station (nor work) when any screening could indicate potential infection. Additionally, ambulance crews are disinfecting all hard surfaces within the patient care compartment of each ambulance multiple times a day.

In short, anyone who feels as though they require an ambulance

should not fear potential exposure to COVID-19 from EMS crews. The first line of defense will occur from the 9-1-1 call center in which a series of questions will be asked. ECEMS works closely with Estill County dispatch, Marcum and Wallace, Estill County Health Department, and all other county agencies to manage potential cases or exposures. Further, ECEMS is following the advice of the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the coronavirus outbreak and are making sure that emergency services will

be uninterrupted to the citizens and visitors of Estill County.

If you are unsure whether you require ambulance assistance or if you are worried you have symptoms of COVID-19, make sure to call your primary care physician (PCP) during regular business hours. If you have questions regarding up-to-date information on COVID-19, call the Kentucky Department of Public Health's COVID hotline at (800) 722-5725. As always, if you are experiencing a medical emergency, dial 9-1-1.

*Stuart Jones, Paramedic  
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Paramedic Shift Captain Brandon Smith cleaning doors. (Courtesy Jimmy Wise, Estill County EMS)

## Speculation about college and high school football seasons



by Larry Vaught

While speculation continues about whether there will be a 2020 college football season, the same is true for the high school season. No one yet knows when high school sports will resume, either, due to COVID-19.

That made me wonder what impact coaches thought it would have on their communities if there was no high school football this fall.

"I think our schools and communities have already been hit hard by all the cancellations and social distancing. If we are still in this situation two months from now, I think high school sports will be the least of our worries," Danville coach Clay Clevenger said.

"Being a small school that prides itself on being competitive academically as well as athletically it would be a major blow to our school not to play football," Somerset coach Robbie Lucas said. "Our

spring athletes have been crushed by not being able to compete ... my youngest daughter is a softball player. As a coach its very difficult to see the hard work of those athletes and coaches not be realized."

Adrian Morton expects to have 31 seniors on his team at Ballard and the team is also supposed to be playing in a new stadium in Louisville.

"After playing every game on the road last season, our guys really want their careers to end on a positive memory," Morton said. "They deserve to have a senior night and hear the home fans cheer for them and I really want them to have that moment."

Casey County coach Steve Stonebraker, who is also the school's athletics director, was "heartbroken" when his girls basketball team won a game at the state tourney and then had the season suspended as well as the spring sports season.

"I can't imagine losing a season when I was an athlete. There are certainly greater tragedies in life, but I don't know of anyone who would rejoice in kids losing an opportunity to participate in athletics that they can't get back," Stonebraker said.

First-year Frederick Douglas coach Nathan McPeek might have more future Division I players

on his roster than any other coach in Kentucky.

"I think it would be a morale killer (if there is no season) but we can't sacrifice lives, and put people in harm's way. I would be very upset personally not to have a season with our seniors of 2021 but spring sport coaches are dealing with that heartbreak for the 2020 seniors currently," McPeek said.

"I think football is so important in the country and such a financial profit for so many schools/communities it would be a major disappointment but safety must be first."

Mercer County coach David Buchanan said no football would be "disappointing and tough" but notes that Mercer is the "home" of the Harrodsburg Tankers of the Bata-an Death March in World War II. Only 37 of the 66 National Guard members deployed survived Japanese captivity and there is a memorial in their honor in Harrodsburg.

"Our community has faced much bigger challenges and answered the bell heroically. Whatever we have to do, we will do it and do it well," Buchanan said.

### Creighton Transfer

Kentucky's backcourt for next year needed experience and depth and got both with Creighton transfer Davion Mintz who said getting a chance

to play at Kentucky was a "blessing" because he wanted to play where the team had a chance to win at the highest level.

"I wanted to be able to show my skill set but also win games," Mintz said. "I can do that at Kentucky and hope my playing experience will help."

He averages 9.7 points, 3.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game during the 2018-19 season before redshirting last year due to a preseason ankle injury. He's a solid free throw shooter — 72 percent at Creighton — and 35 percent shooter from 3-point range.

He's also started 79 games which could be a huge asset on a team that will be dominated by true freshmen next season.

"He could be perfect for what Kentucky needs," one college coach told me. "He's not a big-name guy. He's used to playing a role and sharing the ball. He can play the point or play off the ball. He can guard multiple positions. He was considered a great teammate at Creighton. This might not be a flashy pickup for John Calipari but it's a really good get for what his next team needs."

### Handshakes Are Out

If Kentucky coach John Calipari is right, pregame and postgame handshakes likely are a thing of the past in college ath-



Creighton transfer Davion Mintz gives Kentucky needed backcourt depth and experience. (Creighton University Photo)

letics.

During a recent BBN Live he suggested players and coaches wave or just say something to each other rather than the traditional postgame handshake. Same before games.

"In the NCAA Tournament, the national anthem, play it right before tipoff. Not 12 minutes where we go out and shake hands and touch and talk and spit and cough. Right before tipoff," Calipari said.

"The game ends, you point. 'See you after.' Call the guy on the phone. These kids stay in touch

anyway. You don't need to do it. That's just one thing that should change and probably will change."

Calipari, though, is not one who believes everything needs to change. He doesn't want to think about a time with only online classes for students.

"Don't tell me you can do everything online. These young people need the interaction. They need to be with other students learning as much socially and the interaction and in the company of experts and mentors and professors. So don't tell me all of it will be online," the UK coach said.