



EMS  
U P D A T E



## A holiday message from Waterbury Hospital/Waterbury HEALTH

Dear EMS Friends,

As this most unusual year of 2020 draws to a close, I cannot help but reflect on the challenges those on the frontlines of healthcare have faced.

Unprecedented seems to be the word used most often when discussing the worldwide COVID19 pandemic. Yet it seems almost cliché' at this point. The impact this national health crisis has brought on us all is most extraordinary and yes, unprecedented.

2020 can very easily be described as the year of the healthcare hero. No other occupation or vocation has relied so heavily on those who provide direct patient care in extremely trying circumstances. EMS providers at all levels were at the "front" of the frontlines. I remember in late winter and early spring seeing ambulances pulling into our ED with EMRs, EMTs and Paramedics getting out in full (head to toe) PPE. It was something I hadn't really seen before. I thought to myself how much more difficult your normally stressful job has become. Not only are you thrust into challenging and uncontrolled situations during "normal" times, now the possibility of contracting a highly contagious and deadly diseases is thrown into the mix. When that call was over, another, and another was waiting. And yet like all who have this calling you continue to press on.

We at Waterbury Hospital have always had the deepest and most sincere respect for EMS personnel and first responders, but this year we find ourselves in awe. You are truly the heroes of the heroes in healthcare!

It is my sincere hope that you all can take the opportunity to enjoy some quiet time during the holiday season to enjoy your families. With the recent vaccine developments, there is light at the end of this long tunnel. We will eventually be able to gather once again as colleagues and friends. Until then, please stay safe and be well my friends.

God Bless you all!

With the deepest admiration and gratitude,

*Mark*

Mark Holtz, Senior Vice President and COO

Waterbury Hospital/Waterbury HEALTH

## The big man takes the radio



Santa Claus was recently spotted at one of Northwest CMED's radio consoles. Along with his elves, they pulled a couple shifts on the board to provide some relief to CMED staffers. Perhaps you may have heard him setting up a patch to Waterbury Hospital or dispatching a local fire company. There have been some reports of jingle bells coming over Med 9 as well as the distinct voice of a CMED dispatcher toning out a call for "Beacon HO HO HOse Company".

## COVID19 Vaccines for Caregivers Are Here

It was an exciting week as the first shipment of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer was delivered at Waterbury Hospital. An hour after the delivery on Tuesday afternoon, five hospital colleagues were the first to receive the vaccine during a brief event which was featured in local media including News Channel 8 and Republican-American newspaper. Links to the stories are below.

The five caregivers that received the vaccine as part of this event, were two nurses, a respiratory therapist and an emergency room doctor, who have been taking care of COVID-19 positive patients since March. All went back to work taking care of patients' right after receiving the vaccine. Our vaccine clinics for staff and EMS responders began Wednesday at 6 am and will continue through the next few weeks.

Licensed and certified EMS personnel should have received an email to register with the CDC for an appointment to get vaccinated.

<https://www.wtnh.com/news/connecticut/new-haven/news-8-exclusive-covid-19-vaccine-reaches-waterbury/>

