As the COVID-19 epidemic continues to evolve, healthcare organizations are implementing progressively stricter criteria to decrease the potential spread of the Novel Coronavirus. As such, **GMR leadership is suspending all third riders** as part of the public health effort to minimize contact, particularly in healthcare settings. This decision was not made lightly and is with the utmost concern for the safety and wellbeing of our caregivers, patients, community partners and their families.

**Exceptions and Conditions**

There are exceptions to the suspension. These include:

- Paramedic students
- EMT students in an *Earn to Learn* program
- New GMR Employees completing their orientation period
- Parents and/or legal guardians of minors or dependent adults
- Law Enforcement Officers to escort a patient in custody

Paramedic students must present without signs and symptoms associated with COVID19 such as fever, cough or shortness of breath with their own PPE to include a N95 mask. The crew is expected to review donning and doffing procedures with the student at the start of the shift and refer them to the website for additional resources as needed: https://www.globalmedicalresponse.com/coronavirus. Per standard practice, the attached student agreement and release must be in place prior to the start of the student’s clinical experience.

EMT students who are employed by AMR and enrolled in an Earn to Learn program are also eligible to complete the clinical component of their course as a third rider. As an employee they will have been fit tested with an N95 mask and provided with the knowledge and practice of donning and doffing.

**Family Members**

As many hospitals and healthcare institutions are closing their campuses to visitors, it is no longer possible for family members to ride in with patients. Please advise the patient’s family of your destination and if they want to accompany the patient, request they drive in their own vehicle to the hospital. Assure them it is in everyone’s best interest that they take a separate vehicle and provide them with any visitor restrictions you may be aware of at the hospital you are transporting. The only exceptions allowed would be a:

- Parent/legal guardian of a dependent child or adult
- Law enforcement officer escorting a patient in custody.
Thanks to all of you who are FTOs and preceptors for our student riders. We appreciate your efforts to share your knowledge and skills with future EMS professionals. It is possible that state or local authorities may sanction restrictions that exceed these guidelines. Please reach out to your local Clinical leadership if you have additional questions or concerns.

We continue to monitor the current situation and will communicate any changes in approach as the circumstances evolve. Thank you for your understanding in these challenging times.