

## Board Report:

# COVID 19 Air Medical Response Planning, Massachusetts Air Ambulance Services, and COVID 19 Construction Protocols In Place at Nantucket Memorial Airport

Monday May 11, 2020

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*Presented to:*

■ Board of Directors

*Presented by:*

■ Aeronautics Division

➤ Dr. Jeff DeCarlo

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# COVID-19 Air Medical Response Planning

- Aeronautics is the lead agency for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Association's (MEMA) Air Operations Group and has convened several planning meetings with key aerial evacuation and transport organizations
- Response to the COVID-19 epidemic requires preemptive planning to facilitate patient evacuations from remote areas such as Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard
- In preparation, the Aeronautics' Drone Team has executed numerous medical drone package delivery training missions
- Boston Medflight is the primary aerial medical resource in the Commonwealth augmented by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and Army National Guard (ANG)
- Coordination with Medflight and the Army has resulted in a significant increase of MEMA's air transport capability



# Massachusetts Air Ambulance Services: Boston Med Flight (BMF) Overview

- Nationally-recognized leader in air medical transport
- Created by Consortium of Boston Teaching Hospitals in 1985 (7 hospitals)
- 501(c)(3) non-profit small business
- 160 employees
- Own Part 135 operating certificate
- 4500 patient transports annually
- Critical care-level medical transport (mobile ICU)
- Four bases, five helicopters, one twin-turboprop, seven ground ambulances

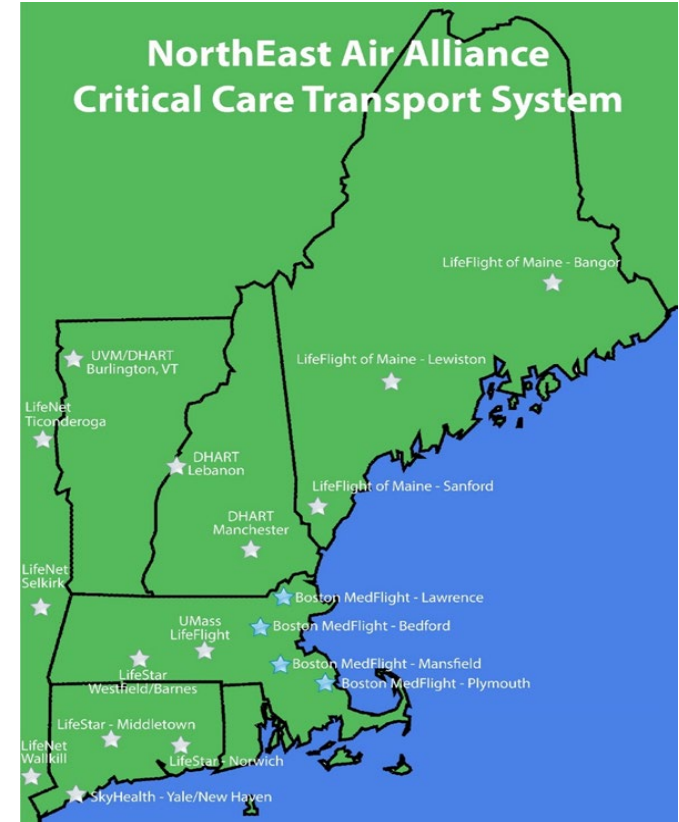


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# Massachusetts Air Ambulance Services: Northeast Air Alliance (NEAA)

- Non-contractual agreement between seven air ambulance operators, working cooperatively to:
  - Assure safety in air medical operations
  - Assure proper medical care is provided to patients in need
- Only such cooperative in the U.S.
- Work together using established & documented best-practices, monthly virtual meetings, semi-annual in-person meetings/workshops, shared clinical practices
- Routine referrals between operators to provide patient with the closest, appropriate, available vehicle



# Massachusetts Air Ambulance Services: Medical Transport During COVID-19

- Vast majority of tested and suspected COVID-19 patients are transported by ground ambulance:
  - Not time critical
  - Vehicle decontamination easier with ground ambulances
  - Keeps helicopters available for time-sensitive & remote medical transports (trauma)
- BMF has completed over 260 COVID-19 transports (as of April 24)
- BMF and NEAA able to transport up to 18 COVID-19 patients daily from Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, if needed
- Coordinating with MA National Guard for contingency medevac surge capacity





# New COVID 19 Construction Protocols In Place: Nantucket Memorial Airport Security Upgrades



- On March 18th, the Town of Nantucket issued a Construction Moratorium, except for essential projects in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Although the Airport was deemed an essential service, it sought a waiver from the Town to allow work on the security project to continue
- The waiver request (including the contractor's work plan) was delivered to the Chief of Police for approval. The waiver was granted on March 26th
- The project includes security upgrades for airport/TSA terminal access controls, security cameras and ID badging equipment. The project began in December 2019 and is scheduled to be completed in June 2020
- The contractor who developed the work plan is complying with the Commonwealth's Guidelines for Construction Projects by ensuring that the job site has clearly posted COVID 19 cleaning/decontamination procedures and that social distancing requirements are being followed by the workers