MEMORANDUM

Re: COVID-19 Update to the Ryan White Act
To: All Tennessee Cities and Towns
Date: March 31, 2020
From: Dennis Wolf, MTAS Fire Management Consultant
       Melissa Ashburn, MTAS Legal Consultant

There have been some news stories about first responders not being able to get information on the status of a suspected COVID-19 patient if the first responder was exposure to that patient.

The list of potentially life-threatening infectious diseases covered by the Ryan White Act was amended on March 27, 2020, to include COVID-19. Any ERE (emergency response employee, i.e. first responder) or department needing to obtain exposure information from a hospital should reference this amendment if the hospital refuses to provide the needed information.

A copy of the notice in the Federal Register is attached, and the notice may be viewed at this link:


This is a link to the CDC webpage explaining the notification process:

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ryanwhite/NotificationProcess.html