

The Vermont EMS Office recognizes there is a balance between collecting meaningful data for a specific purpose and the time required to complete documentation in SIREN. Given the unique challenges associated with providing emergency medical care in the prehospital setting, particularly around the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vermont EMS Office believes it is important to capture COVID-related information on the statewide run form. If your service does not currently respond into SIREN, but is interested please email [SIREN@vermont.gov](mailto:SIREN@vermont.gov) for more information.

Please note that the additional questions added to the run form are not mandatory, but will assist your agency and the state with:

- Determining the PPE consumption rate (“burn rate”) in Vermont EMS
- Measuring COVID activity in Vermont
- Contact investigations in the event of an EMS exposure

## PPE Burn Rate

- Measuring the consumption rate, also referred to as the “burn rate”, will help the state and EMS agencies plan and optimize the use of PPE for response to COVID-19. The burn rate can help the state better understand the specific resource needs that exist and help the state advocate for PPE resources at the federal level. This information can be used to estimate how long the remaining supply of PPE will last, based on the average consumption rate, and can help make projections for future needs.

## COVID Activity

- The COVID-19 supplemental questions, in combination with specific data fields on the statewide run form, will provide additional insight into EMS encounters with patients presenting with COVID-like illness (fever and cough or shortness of breath or dyspnea). These data can be used to track trends of EMS calls involving suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases around the state and to be analyzed against the historical data for comparison. We can look at the EMS data retrospectively to measure the effectiveness of our Vermont EMS COVID-19 protocol.

## Exposure

- Thorough and timely documentation of an EMS call in SIREN will assist the Health Department with their contact investigation in the event of an EMS exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case. This also includes any and all involvement from mutual aid agencies (first response, fire departments, law enforcement, etc).