



# REGIONAL INFECTION CONTROL OFFICER PROGRAM

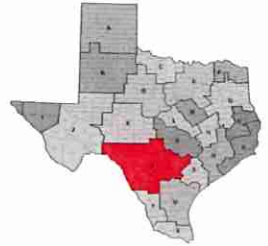
Memorandum of Understanding  
August 2023



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Infection Control Officer (RICO) Program is a co-operative approach to addressing the essential infection control and prevention needs of EMS agencies in the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) region.

In the 84<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas Legislature, SB 1574 was passed, placing requirements on EMS agencies to have Designated Infection Control Officers, increase prevention and reporting processes and allow hospitals to provide better information to EMS providers.



The RICO Program provides a mechanism to normalize, centralize and simplify processes for EMS agencies to meet the requirements of SB1574 and provide consistent, quality infection prevention, rapid assistance from qualified Infection Preventionist providers if an exposure occurs while also ensuring regulatory compliance.

STRAC has partnered with San Antonio Fire Department and the Office of the Medical Director, Emergency Health Sciences Department of the UT Health San Antonio to create the RICO program. Dr. David Miramontes, SAFD/EMS Medical Director oversees the RICO program, and RICO manages the day-to-day operations.

For those EMS agencies who opt-in this program the Regional Infection Control Officer will:

- Conduct an onsite agency review
- Report recommendations for improvement to the Chief Officer or his designee
- Tailor the regional infection control plan to the specific needs of the agency
- Conduct additional site visits as needed
- Assist with agency personnel exposure to include:
  - Prophylactic guidance
  - Consultation services to ER physicians handling the exposure
  - Assisting the Emergency Response Employee (ERE) through the Blood and Body Fluid Exposure process.

## DEFINITIONS

**MEDCOM** – Regional medical communications center that handles trauma transfer requests, MCI activation, dispatch of STRAC Emergency Operations and Emergency Medical Task Force assets and other regional issues as assigned. MEDCOM’s primary # is 210-233-5815.

**Primary Infection Control Point of Contact (POC)** – The EMS agency or hospital POC that is routinely available to handle infection control issues or concerns on a daily basis. Examples would be Emergency Physicians, ED Directors, EMS shift commanders, etc.


**Senior Infection Control POC** – The agency or hospital POC that is ultimately responsible for overseeing the organization’s infection control issues and has the authority to speak on behalf of the organization. The Senior Administrative POC will handle concerns that cannot be resolved by the Primary POC. Examples would be System Directors, COOs, CEOs, EMS Chiefs, EMS Medical Directors, etc.

**TSA-P** – Trauma Service Area – P. TSA-P is the 22-county region in and around San Antonio designated by the Department of State Health Services. (See attached map)

**TERM**

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is effective on the date on which it is signed and remains effective for a period of three (3) years or until written notification is received revoking the MOU with the STRAC. All parties reserve the right to terminate this MOU at any time, with or without cause. A thirty (30) day written notification is required for termination of the MOU.

Upon expiration thereof, this agreement will continue in force until either party notifies the other party in writing of its intent to terminate this agreement in which case it shall terminate ninety (90) days from the date of the notice.

<i>Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council</i>	
<p>By:   <i>Eric Epley, Executive Director</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">09-31-2023</p> <p>Date</p>	
<p>EMS or First Responder Agency: _____</p>	
<p><i>Chief or Executive Leadership</i></p> <p>By: _____  <small>(Signature)</small></p> <p>Print Name</p> <p>Title</p> <p>Date</p>	<p><i>EMS Medical Director</i></p> <p>By: _____  <small>(Signature)</small></p> <p>Print Name</p> <p>Title</p> <p>Date</p>

