



## COVID-19 FAQ

### **9. What information regarding COVID-19 calls can be shared with county executive and other county officials?**

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Answer: HIPAA permits EMS agencies to disclose health information to a public health authority, such as a County health department or County EMS agency (such as a regional EMS council), as long as that department or agency is authorized by State law to collect such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. Generally, public health authorities are granted wide discretion to determine what information they need to collect to fulfill their function of preventing or controlling disease. So, as long as the authority is authorized by law to collect additional call information – such as location of the call – you may release that information to the County health department or EMS agency. While we cannot comment on every States’ law concerning, but we have seen that most public health authorities in the United States are authorized by State law to collect location and even limited information concerning the patient’s status. See, 45 CFR § 164.512 (b)(1)(i).