

Dearest Durhamites,

I am Teshéa Grant, a Public Information Officer in Durham's Emergency Medical Services Department. As we continue to heed stay-at-home orders due to the current health pandemic, we want to highlight **National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week**. **@EMSDurham @EmergencyDocs @NAEMT\_**

"EMS Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to honor the dedication of those who provide the lifesaving services of medicine's front line".

The 2020 EMS Week theme is [Ready Today. Preparing for Tomorrow](#). This theme is particularly meaningful now as we see the EMS community rallying to support those affected by COVID-19, all while responding to the everyday emergencies that continue to occur. Now more than ever, it is important that we honor and celebrate our EMS professionals"! **#COVID19EMS #HealthcareHeroes**

Each day of this week, **@EMSDurham** will recognize their team members and spotlight why they do what they do! Additionally, each day of EMS Week is themed to recognize the diverse nature of EMS.

For Monday, **EMS Education Day**, **@DurhamCounts** is highlighting the **Durham County EMS Community Paramedic Program**. Community Paramedics are experienced emergency medical service providers with additional training in behavioral health, solo responder safety, and chronic medical care. They provide onsite assessments to determine medical, physiological, social and housing needs in addition to working with community partners like Open Table Ministry (**@OTMDurham**), Durham Rescue Mission (**@RescueDurham**), Urban Ministries, local hospitals and others to assist residents with services beyond what can be provided in the moment. Community Paramedics fill gaps in healthcare for the local homeless population, frequent 911 callers, people with behavioral crises, and other underserved populations in our community.

On Safety Tuesday we will highlight the importance of safety with tips for senior fall prevention. On Wednesday, EMS for Children Day, we will highlight tips to help you complete car seat safety checks. For Thursday, Save a Life

Day, we will highlight the importance of CPR training, and on Friday, EMS Recognition Day, we will give further recognition the Durham EMS team for their commitment to our community!

We are proud of our Durham EMS team and want to recognize them for their accomplishments. We have never seen difficult times like we see with the COVID-19 response. As our EMS team continues to serve you through this difficult time, we thank you for recognizing our profession this week. Together, with our community, we are EMS-Strong!

**Did you know that Census data informs decisions about federal funding that supports local EMS agencies?** EMS professionals have a strong desire to have a positive impact in a person's life. Let's show our support for them by completing the **#2020Census** questionnaire!

While sheltering in place, and attending to personal, professional and academic responsibilities, remember to complete the Census **online, by mail or by telephone.**

On average, it takes less than 10 minutes to complete the Census questionnaire. Completing the Census is an opportunity to continue to positively impact our community! Everyone Counts! Including You! **#DurhamCounts #MakeNCCount #2020Census @NCCensus @NCCounts**

Due to COVID-19 the deadline to complete the Census is extended to **October 31, 2020.**

**Go to [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) to complete the Census online.**  
Call 844-330-2020 to respond to the Census by phone in English.  
Call 844-468-2020 to respond to the Census by phone in Spanish.

Warmest Regards,  
Everyone Counts!