



John Jordan

Title: Emergency Medical Services Specialist.

Education: National Registry Certified - Paramedic.

Where do you work? UPMC Somerset.

Department: Emergency Department.

Years of service: 10 months with UPMC, 12 years in a prehospital setting.

Area of expertise: Emergency Medical Services, Care, Education and Compliance and Emergency Preparedness.

What are your thoughts/concerns about working through the COVID-19 crisis?

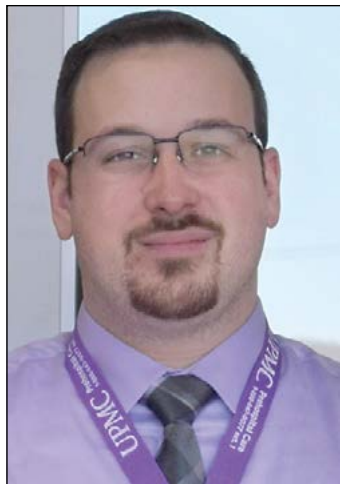
My biggest concern about working in health care during this pandemic is the unknown. Not

knowing what you will encounter with your next patient is something that can keep you up at night. In the beginning, we knew very little about COVID-19 except that it had the potential to make a lot of people very sick. We have learned a lot in a short amount of time, and now COVID-19 is no longer unknown. That fear of the unknown quickly turned to respect for the disease and its capabilities.

I still worry about the unintended transmission of COVID-19 to us or our loved ones at home, but I know that myself and my coworkers are taking the necessary steps to prevent exposures and follow proper infection control plans to keep everyone safe and healthy.

It would be naïve of me to not appreciate how so many people have come together to achieve a common goal in preparation of handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our nurses and doctors are at the forefront of our organization and rightfully deserve recognition, but every link in the chain of survival is equally important. Environmental services, engineering, pharmacy, information services, supply chain and prehospital providers all deserve recogni-



tion because without them we would not be able to care for our patients in our current capacity.

The dedication of these individuals is unparalleled; every day I find a new reason to be proud to be part of this team.

Community of residence: Richland Township, Cambria County.

Health Care Heroes is a project of The Tribune-Democrat and local medical centers to spotlight individuals working in health-related fields.