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Information Bulletin

ISSUER: Ferrari, DC of EMS

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Novel Coronavirus Update

Dispatch, Evaluation, Treatment, and Transport

Last night in Snohomish County, we experienced the first confirmed case of Novel Coronavirus in the U.S. The CDC is actively involved in defining appropriate precautions when dealing with this and other coronavirus strains. Today's recommendations regarding the Novel Coronavirus may soon be old news. But you can always check the [CDC website](#) for the latest information. Information is quickly evolving and this IB is an attempt to briefly summarize some important field considerations.

Dispatch Changes

Sno911 is activating the syndromic surveillance tool to perform an initial risk assessment of our patients. Call takers will be screening chief complaints such as difficulty breathing, sick person, etc. This assessment will be performed at the end of their call-taking procedures and the results will be available in the CAD narrative. If a patient screens positive, the dispatcher will advise over the air to "don appropriate PPE". We do not want more specific descriptors going out over the air at this time.

Evaluation

- You are strongly advised to obtain a travel history for all pts. with fever and acute respiratory illness
- Novel Coronavirus should be suspected in patients with:
 - fever
 - AND symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough, difficulty breathing)
 - AND history of travel from Wuhan City, China 14 days before symptom onset
 - OR had close contact with a person who is under investigation for coronavirus
- If your suspicion remains, mask the patient and confirm proper PPE of all crew members
- Add your MSO to the call for additional support including equipment, logistics, and planning

PPE recommendations

The CDC currently recommends standard precautions, contact precautions, and airborne precautions for Novel Coronavirus. Precautions include:

- hand hygiene before and after patient care
- gloves
- eye and face protection
- gown
- NIOSH-approved, fit-tested N-95 Masks (or higher)

Apparatus Preparation

In addition to proper PPE for all personnel, your Aid Car or Medic Unit should be properly prepared for transport of patients with High-Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCIDs) such as Novel Coronavirus.

This can be accomplished with the BioCell APS (Ambulance Protection System) found on MSO-5.

Benefits include:

- Minimize chance of contaminating interior of the Aid Car or Medic Unit
- Heavy duty plastic sheeting exceeds current CDC recommendations
- 20 minute average installation time
- One-time use, to be incinerated

Directions for installation can be found in [Resource Library > EMS > Equipment Manuals](#)



Additional Transportation Considerations

- Providence will be the transport destination
- Contact Medical Control early to discuss transfer of care and allow receiving providers time to don PPE

Please contact your MSO if you have any further questions about appropriate PPE, decision-making, care, and transport decisions regarding this and other infection control topics.

Ferrari