



SPECIAL NOTICE 20-004

DATE: March 1, 2020
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Shawn Arold, Deputy Chief

CANCELLATION OF ALL NON-ESSENTIAL PUBLIC EVENTS AND STATION TOURS

Department Personnel,

We recently received reports of COVID-19 spread within the state of WA. An increase in WA state cases is a trigger for the SVFD to modify the EMS operational response to Spokane Valley patients with potential COVID-19 or flu like symptoms.

We will be meeting with Spokane County EMS and are likely to initiate changes in the coming days. Be prepared to receive and review frequent updates.

Given this concern, I am suspending non-essential public relations and educational activities that require in person attendance until further notice.

I am including some items that you may take action on immediately:

- Do not rely solely on dispatch for alerts on donning PPE. Conduct "**doorway triage**":
 - "Does anybody here have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or respiratory distress?"
 - If yes, don appropriate PPE for COVID-19
 - May send one person in and have the patient place a surgical mask
 - Maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet unless procedures require you to be closer.

- During transport of a suspected case:
 - ***SVFD personnel will not ride in with patients unless absolutely critical to patient care.***
 - Avoid non-essential/non-immediate lifesaving aerosol-generating procedures.
 - Follow CDC guidelines and equipment recommendations:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>
 - Early Hospital contact to prepare for patient arrival.

- Documentation:
 - Should be done after doffing and decontamination, or by a provider not having patient contact.
 - Include all providers involved, especially mutual aid providers, for infection control tracking.

- Cleaning/disinfections guidelines can be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

CDC guidelines for community mitigation can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/preparing-individuals-communities.html>

Sincerely,

Deputy Chief
Shawn Arold