



## **SPECIAL NOTICE 20-005**

**DATE:** March 2, 2020  
**TO:** All Personnel  
**FROM:** Shawn Arold, Deputy Chief

### **SPOKANE COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL COVID-19 EXPECTED CLINICAL ACTIONS GUIDANCE**

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Department Personnel,

Here is the official guidance on the clinical treatment of suspected COVID-19 patients as provided by Dr. Nania and the Spokane County EMS & Trauma Care Council:

#### *Expected Clinical Actions:*

For patients that are in the general illness category and there is not preliminary suspicion of COVID-19 (via Fire Dispatch), general infection control guidelines must be followed. If COVID-19 is suspected all recommended personnel protective equipment should be worn. If COVID-19 is suspected through interrogation at Fire Dispatch, or upon initial patient assessment, then prior to entering the residence the EMS responder should follow Standard, Contact and Airborne Precautions and use the following PPE:

- A single pair of disposable examination gloves, changing to a new pair if they become torn or heavily contaminated.
- Disposable isolation gowns
- Respiratory protection (i.e. N-95 or higher-level respirator)
- Eye Protection (i.e. Glasses or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face)
- Have one (1) responder enter the residence initially while additional responders remain outside.
- The responder who makes initial contact should remain six (6) feet or further from the patient. Initiate a rapid scene size up (triage) and verbal patient assessment.\
- If COVID-19 is suspected a face mask should be given to the patient for they or friend/family members already in close association with the patient to apply.
- If a nasal cannula is in place, a face mask should be worn over it. A non-rebreather oxygen mask can be used
- Precautions should be taken for Aerosol-Generating Procedures including the following: BVM ventilation, Oropharyngeal suctioning, endotracheal intubation, SGA placement, nebulizer treatments, CPAP, and BiPAP. BVMs should have a HEPA filter. If ventilators are used, the manufacturer should be consulted to confirm appropriate filtration capability and the effect of filtration on positive pressure ventilation.
- Treat any acute symptoms (e.g. Breathing problems, hypotension, etc.) in accordance with the appropriate Spokane County Patient Care Protocol.
- Avoid ELECTIVE invasive procedures that would increase exposure to respiratory pathogens.

Sincerely,

Deputy Chief  
Shawn Arold