

# WEST PALM BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT



## \*\*\*COVID-19 UPDATE\*\*\* April 2, 2020

**To: All Personnel -Update COVID-19**

### **RESPONDING TO CALLS:**

- Park vehicle a house or 2 away so engine noise doesn't drown out patient.
- Advise dispatch or encourage patient to come outside for evaluation.
- Explain distancing and PPE to the patient, if possible.
- Use surgical masks or NRM on the patient to control possible droplets.
- Call MED ALERT as indicated.

### **PPE:**

- N95 shall be worn on every medical call.
  - You may see different styles of N95. Rest assured N95 masks issued are compliant with CDC and FDA guidelines.
  - Discard masks after invasive procedures (i.e. BVM).
- PPE should be ordered through logistics separate from the station med order.
- Email suggestions for equipment and research findings to [eclogistics.org](mailto:eclogistics.org)

### **VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT DECON:**

- Plexiglass partitions between the cab and patient compartment will be installed in all rescues over the next few weeks.
- Decon equipment prior to putting back in the vehicle.
- Decon vehicle prior to putting clean equipment inside.
- Change trash regularly.
- Decon sprayers will be issued to all transport units 4/3/20

### **DOCUMENTATION:**

- Each UNIT on MED ALERT calls must document the PPE worn in the ePCR.
- Document other agencies on-scene (i.e. PD).
- Descriptive narratives are **CRITICAL** to ensure proper follow up and DDL tracking.
- Station Captains complete PPE logs daily to capture burn rate.
- We will begin screening crew members daily starting 4/3/20.
- File completed logs in the captain's office.

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**NOTIFICATION:**

- Not all MED ALERTS are tested by the hospital. Once EMS is notified of a positive patient by the hospital, all hands are on deck to research the documentation, make proper notification to Fire and PD involved, and arrange for quarantine, testing etc. The more descriptive your narrative is, the faster these notifications can be made.

**CORONA SCREENING UNITS (CSU):**

- Perform reconnaissance on flu like symptom calls.
- Encourage patients with flu-like symptoms to manage them at home (if possible).
- Hand out COVID Hotline cards.
- Reduce PPE use and exposure to personnel by triaging calls.
- Follow up with patients that were not transported the previous day (utilize pre-determined narrative).
- **All procedures/forms located in T.S. >File Center> COVID-19> CSU**

**TESTING:**

- First Responder Testing is by appointment only:
  - CB Smith Park: (954)276-4340.
  - Hard Rock Stadium: (954)276-4680.
  - Health Care District, Lantana
    - This facility only honors requests from the Department Infectious Control Officer (EMS Chief). Tests will be scheduled for you.

The only testing that we can verify are the ones above. We cannot verify or endorse private labs.

Civilian Screening tents at hospitals are for walk-ups/ POV ONLY, as of 3/31/20.

**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE:**

- Childcare: (561) 514-3300