



Town of Farmington Fire Department
1 Monteith Drive Farmington, CT 06032

Phone: (860) 675-2322 Fax: (860) 675-2323
www.Farmington-CT.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: TFFD Personnel

FROM: Steve Hoffmann, Director of Fire & Rescue Services *SH*

DATE: April 6, 2020 (UPDATED)

RE: Exposure Procedures for Firefighter/EMTs

As cases continue to be identified, we need to ensure we provide proper guidance to our personnel on the procedures in the instance they are exposed to a patient with COVID-19. If responding Firefighter/EMT(s) are exposed to a presumptive or confirmed COVID-19 Patient the following shall be followed:

- **Before entering any location or address for an EMS or Fire Call,** questions should be asked of the occupants to identify any concerns to COVID-19. These questions should be asked while maintaining CDC distance guidelines. These questions can include
 - Is anyone feeling sick or experience symptoms (Fever, cough, shortness of breath)
 - Travel outside the US or to any of the location in the US that have high concentrations of COVID-19
 - A healthcare provider that works in a hospital that may have had contact with a confirmed or presumptive patient
 - First Responder who had contact with a confirmed or presumptive COVID patient
 - Any other questions the Firefighter/EMT feels will add to make a good determination
- Any concern for the location or address to have COVID-19, proper universal precautions should be followed to ensure to limit exposure
- The patient who is presumed to have COVID-19 shall be given a surgical mask for source control immediately
- Firefighter/EMT(s) who will directly care for a patient with possible COVID-19 infection or who will be in close contact with the patient should follow



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Standard Precautions and use the PPE as described below while following the proper donning procedures:

- N-95 Mask (surgical mask is appropriate if not available)
 - Eye Protection
 - Nitrile exam gloves
 - Gown (use for Aerosol producing procedures)
 - Firefighter/EMTs who wear the appropriate PPE and Don/Doff in the approved manner the risk exposure is LOW
- Personnel should be limited to the number needed to provide sufficient patient care
 - Firefighter/EMTs, when arriving on scene prior to AMR, should attempt to contact the patient while maintaining 6' of distance per CDC guidelines to determine if a life threat exists.
 - If no life threat exists, FD should maintain their distance and monitor the patient until the arrival of AMR or mutual aid ambulance.
 - If life threat exists, the firefighter/EMT(s) needed to provide care should don the appropriate PPE before making patient contact. Limiting exposure to additional personnel who are not needed should be maintained.
 - Exposure to a COVID-19 case will result in separation from the rest of the responding personnel on the scene in the front yard, or a location that will provides sufficient distance as recommended by CDC Guidelines.
 - Those Firefighter/EMT(s) exposed will utilize the apparatus they responded with to return to the fire station and park the apparatus outside with all doors open.
 - If firefighter/personnel who were not exposed were on that same apparatus, arrangements will be made to transport those individuals back to their fire station in a separate vehicle.
 - The Firefighter/EMTs who were in contact with the COVID-19 will properly doff and dispose of their PPE in a red biohazard bag at the fire station.



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- Firefighter/EMTs will complete a full Decontamination by taking a shower at the fire station.
 - It is recommended that Firefighter/EMTs maintain a 2nd set of cloths to change into.
- The Town of Farmington Fire Department Exposure Plan (Directive #01-01) will be followed and proper documentation via Workers Compensation Paperwork will be completed. Documentation shall also be maintained in the PCR for the patient.
- When cleaning the fire apparatus, Firefighter/EMTs should wear a disposable gown and gloves. A face shield or facemask and goggles should also be worn if splashes or sprays during cleaning are anticipated.
 - Cleaning procedures are located in the Department Memo released on 3/16/20
 - Proper hand Hygiene should be completed immediately following the deconning of the apparatus
 - Proper disposal of PPE in red biohazard bag
- The Farmington Valley Health Department will be contacted to inform them of the potential exposure. This may result in Quarantine of the exposed Firefighter/EMT(s) at their residence for a minimum of 14 days, depending on determined risk factors, where they will be monitored daily for signs and symptoms
 - Guidance will be provided for self-care at home and for those living in the same household
 - Contact with the Town physician or Firefighter/EMTs personal physician will be completed at the guidance of the FVHD Director
 - All responders who were on scene should still be self-monitoring and making sure they do not develop any signs or symptoms

Risk Exposure Category Information from CDC Guidelines:

- ***High- and Medium-risk Exposure Category***
HCP in the high- or medium-risk category should undergo active monitoring, including restriction from work in any healthcare setting until 14 days after their last exposure. If they develop any fever (measured



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temperature > 100.0 F or subjective fever) OR respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat)* they should immediately self-isolate (separate themselves from others) and notify their local or state public health authority and healthcare facility promptly so that they can coordinate consultation and referral to a healthcare provider for further evaluation.

- **Low-risk Exposure Category**

HCP in the low-risk category should perform self-monitoring with delegated supervision until 14 days after the last potential exposure. Asymptomatic HCP in this category are not restricted from work. They should check their temperature twice daily and remain alert for

respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat)*. They should ensure they are afebrile and asymptomatic before leaving home and reporting for work. If they do not have fever or respiratory symptoms they may report to work. If they develop fever (measured temperature \geq 100.0 °F or subjective fever) OR respiratory symptoms they should immediately self-isolate (separate themselves from

others) and notify their local or state public health authority or healthcare facility promptly so that they can coordinate consultation and referral to a healthcare provider for further evaluation. On days HCP are scheduled to work, healthcare facilities could consider measuring temperature and

assessing symptoms prior to starting work. Alternatively, facilities could consider having HCP report temperature and symptoms to occupational health prior to starting work. Modes of communication may include telephone calls or any electronic or internet-based means of communication.

- **HCP who Adhere to All Recommended Infection Prevention and Control Practices**

Proper adherence to currently recommended infection control practices, including all recommended PPE, should protect HCP having prolonged close contact with patients infected with COVID-19. However, to account for any inconsistencies in use or adherence that could result in unrecognized exposures, HCP should still perform self-monitoring with delegated supervision as described under the low-risk exposure category.

- **No Identifiable risk Exposure Category**

HCP in the no identifiable risk category do not require monitoring or restriction from work.



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- This memo should also be accompanied with the table of Exposure Risk Factors for quick and easy reference

Personnel in Critical Infrastructure Positions

- Some personnel (e.g., emergency first responders) fill essential (critical) infrastructure roles within communities. Based on the needs of individual jurisdictions, and at the discretion of state or local health authorities, these personnel may be permitted to continue working following potential exposure to COVID-19 (either travel related or close contact) provided they remain asymptomatic. Personnel who are permitted to work following an exposure should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program including taking their temperature before each work shift to ensure they remain afebrile. On days these individuals are scheduled to work, the employer's occupational health program could consider measuring temperature and assessing symptoms prior to their starting work.