COVID-19 PROCEDURE MANUAL

WORK PERIOD

April 22- May 6, 2020

This guideline is dynamic and might change daily. It does NOT cover every situation.
COVID-19 Best Practices

Fire Station & Crew Protective Measures

Purpose
1. Proactively prevent possible spread of the virus within our organization
2. Maintain, reduce exposure risk, and protect the EFD workforce so we can continue to protect and serve the public
3. Protect fire stations from contamination and possible subsequent quarantine
4. Protect vulnerable and high-risk patient population within our community and response area

Actions
1. Restrict ALL visitor access, including citizens and family members. Post signage on entry doors (as provided).
2. Restrict fire station access for anyone (employees and citizens) showing signs of fever or respiratory illness.
3. Limit fire station access to a single entry point (as feasible).
4. When entering fire station, perform:
   - hand hygiene with alcohol-based cleaner
   - boot decontamination with (CaviCide or bleach Spray or wipes)
5. Institute proactive employee self-assessment and monitoring for ALL employees
   - At start of day and night shift and throughout shift day:
     - Complete “Employee Daily Shift Monitoring Tracker” (see last page; next box below lists symptoms to be monitored and actions)
6. Complete daily station cleaning and decontamination.

Employee Self-Assessment and Symptoms Monitored
At start of shift and minimum 2 times during shift day, do you have:
- Fever ( >100.0° F )
- Signs of respiratory illness (sore throat, congestion, etc.)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Unexplained fatigue or myalgias
  - If “YES” to ANY symptoms, IMMEDIATELY notify your supervisor or Battalion Chief
  - If “NO” to ALL symptoms, continue self-monitoring throughout shift
## Virus Transmissibility

Evidence shows transmission of COVID-19 is possible through:

1. Talking/normal breathing (not just coughing, sneezing, droplet contact) AND  
2. By infected people who are showing mild to no symptoms

## Strategies To Limit Stealth COVID-19 Transmission in On-Duty Crews

1. **Wear surgical masks** whenever in station common areas:
   - Use same mask until soiled or compromised  
   - Wearing a mask is primarily to protect your crew  
   - We have adequate supply of surgical masks for on-duty crews
2. **Wash hands** thoroughly and often
3. **Practice good social distancing** whenever in station common areas
4. **Ensure ventilation** (BUT Please keep station security in mind):
   - Open doors and windows when in common areas  
   - Open dorm windows at night and/or before shift exchange
5. **Complete daily station cleaning and decontamination** as posted in Operative IQ daily tasks and throughout the day

## Station Activities

1. **Kitchen and Mealtime:**
   - Limit trips to grocery store – wear surgical masks if you go  
   - Consider suspending group meals  
   - If you must eat family-style:  
     - Ensure everyone is washing hands  
     - Get your own plate and utensils  
   - Clean early and clean often – true for whole station, especially common areas
2. **Workouts:**
   - Limit number of people working out at one time  
   - Clean any equipment you use EVERY time  
   - Open windows while working out – turn on fans, if available  
   - Be mindful of station security – close windows when done
3. **Station Shoes and Duty Boots:**
   - Consider using station shoes  
   - Consider keeping duty boots in the apparatus bay

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**COVID-19 Best Practices**

- Station/Crew Protective Measures
- Crew Safety
  - Response
  - Department PPE Checklist
  - Aerosol Safety
  - \( \text{O}_2 \) – Airway Mgt.
  - Transportation
  - Notify Hospital
- Decontamination
  - Crew Decon Checklist: Transport Unit
  - Crew Decon Checklist: Non-transport Unit
  - Transport Unit Decon Checklist
- PPE Preservation
- PPE Conservation
- UV-C N-95 Mask Disinfection
- Station Safety & Sick Personnel
  - Workflow
  - BC Algorithm
  - 14-Day Symptom Tracking
  - Daily Shift Tracking

**April 22-May 6** Subject to change based on current recommendations
COVID-19 Best Practices

Station/Crew Protective Measures

Crew Safety

Response

Department PPE

Checklist

Aerosol Safety

O₂ – Airway Mgt.

Transportation

Notify Hospital

Decontamination

Crew Decon Checklist: Transport Unit

Crew Decon Checklist: Non-transport Unit

Transport Unit Decon Checklist

PPE Preservation

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UV-C N-95 Mask Disinfection

Station Safety & Sick Personnel

Workflow

BC Algorithm

14-Day Symptom Tracking

Daily Shift Tracking

Level III / High Level PPE

- N-95 or APR Mask
- Goggles/Face Shield
- Gown
- Gloves
- Shoe covers optional

Donning Sequence: M E G G

1. Mask
2. Eyes (Goggles/Face Shield)
3. Gown
4. Gloves

Doffing Sequence (reverse donning): G G E M

1. Gloves
2. Gown
3. Eyes (Goggles/Face Shield)
4. Mask

The APR mask provides significantly better protection for all patient contact.
Checklist: COVID-19 Response

ALL EMS Calls: High Precaution – Level III

1. Wear PPE: N-95/APR, goggles/face shield, gown, gloves

2. Surgical mask on ALL patients

3. Treatment Precaution & PPE Preservation (use following & best judgment):
   - Door triage every patient (minimum 6 ft separation)
   - Patient walks to front door, if appropriate
   - Limit number of crew in contact with patient
   - Second-in crews: only dress number providers needed to treat patient
   - NO ORAL TEMPERATURES
   - If possible aerosol (eg. intubation, BVM, suctioning, iGel, CPAP, nebulized medications, non-rebreather with no patient mask): see below “Precautions for Aerosol Generating Procedures”

4. Standards of Care have NOT changed:
   - Protocols & expectations for patient assessment, treatment & transport are still in effect

Aerosol Generating Procedures Precautions

If patient condition REQUIRES invasive airway intervention:
   - BVMs should be equipped with HEPA filters
   - FOLLOW STANDARD AIRWAY PROTOCOLS for patients needing advanced airway
      - Evidence shows our standard protocols safest for providers
   - DO NOT USE VENTILATORS
   - Use CPAP and nebulized meds as last resort.
      - Consider other appropriate treatments first.
   - Maximize area ventilation: open doors/windows, use exhaust fans
   - Contact Medical Control for guidance, as needed
   - See decon checklists for specialized steps after aerosol procedures

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Oxygen or Advanced Airway Management

Illustrations are examples only. Specific equipment may vary by agency.

### Nasal Canula
1. Place nasal cannula
2. Place surgical mask over the face
3. Titrate oxygen flow rate: 2-6 LPM

### Non-Rebreather
1. Place non-rebreather mask
2. Place surgical mask over the face on top of NRB mask
3. Titrate oxygen flow rate: 6-15 LPM

### BVM
1. Place HEPA filter on exhalation port
2. Ensure & maintain mask seal
3. Titrate oxygen flow rate to patient need

### Endotracheal Tube or I-gel
1. Place HEPA filter on exhalation port
2. Place EtCO₂
3. Ensure I-gel is seated appropriately

### Transporting Instructions
1. **Isolate ambulance driver** from patient compartment
2. **Driver:** remove gloves, gown, & goggles/faceseal; keep mask ON
   - If cab is sealed from patient area, no PPE is required for driver
3. **Minimize number of providers in back of unit**
4. **Do NOT transport family members of any patient except parents/guardians, POA, special needs**
   - Note: Per CDC, hospitals not accepting any visitors – some possible exceptions for end of life situations
5. **Ventilation:**
   - Use MAXIMUM with transport of any suspected COVID-19 patient
   - Back of rig: use exhaust fans and open windows to create airflow
EMS: COVID-19 Hospital Notification Checklist

**Symptoms?**
Check if patient has had any of the following symptoms of acute respiratory infection:
- [ ] Fever (or subjective fever)
- [ ] New cough
- [ ] New shortness of breath (without alternative diagnosis)
- [ ] New onset myalgias (soreness/achiness in muscles)

**Exposure?**
Check if any of the following is true for the patient in the last 14 days:
- [ ] Close contact with/part of a COVID-19 illness cluster in facility or group
- [ ] Close contact with a suspected or lab-confirmed COVID-19 case
- [ ] Healthcare worker or in a COVID-19 high-risk occupation (EMS, firefighter, public safety)

- If **YES to BOTH questions** above, advise hospital of a **HIGH risk isolation patient**, jump to blue box below
- If **NOT**, proceed to next (yellow) box

**Symptoms**
Check if patient has any of the following symptoms:
- [ ] Cough
- [ ] Runny nose
- [ ] Sore throat

- If **ANYTHING** has been checked in this box, advise hospital of a **MEDIUM risk isolation patient**, jump to blue box below
- If **NOTHING** has been checked in this box, advise hospital of a **LOW risk isolation patient**, proceed to blue box

**At Hospital:**
- **Driver:** register patient, coordinate with staff
- Alert hospital to patients with aerosol generating procedures
- Stop aerosolizing procedures when moving through ER
- **Provider:** Doors and windows open for ventilation
- Consider keeping patient in rig until ready for transfer

April 22-May 6 Subject to change based on current recommendations
**General Principles:**
- Conduct daily deep cleaning of stations and apparatus throughout the shift, as appropriate
- CONDUCT ALL PRIMARY DECON BEFORE ENTERING STATION. DO NOT CONTAMINATE STATION
- Transport unit crews will perform decon at HOSPITAL

**Actions if Aerosol Generating Procedures Performed on Suspected or Known COVID-19 Patient**

**AFTER PATIENT TRANSFER** (but still at hospital):
1. Properly dispose of PPE, as per PPE Re-use Practices
2. Wash hands
3. Allow patient compartment to air out with doors and windows open for 20 minutes
4. Deep clean apparatus while wearing PPE (see “Transport Unit DECON CDC Guidelines”)
5. Decon boots with spray CaviCide1 or bleach
6. Decon goggles and wash with soap and water
7. Outside rig or in hospital decon room: doff & bag uniforms, don spare uniform from go bag.
8. Place bagged uniforms in exterior rig compartment
9. Return to station
10. Launder uniforms worn with PPE (Hot water & hot drying)
11. Shower and don fresh uniforms

**Actions if NO Aerosol Generating Procedures Performed**
1. Properly dispose of PPE, as per PPE Re-use Practices
2. Wash hands
3. Deep clean apparatus (see “Transport Unit DECON CDC Guidelines”)
4. Decon goggles, then wash with soap and water
5. Launder uniforms as appropriate per agency infection control guidelines
COVID-19 Best Practices
Station/Crew Protective Measures
Crew Safety Response
Department PPE Checklist
Aerosol Safety
O₂ – Airway Mgt.
Transportation
Notify Hospital

Decontamination
Crew Decon Checklist: Transport Unit

Crew Decon Checklist: Non-transport Unit
Transport Unit Decon Checklist

PPE Preservation
PPE Conservation
UV-C N-95 Mask Disinfection
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Crew DECON Checklist – Non-Transport Unit

General Principles:
- Conduct daily deep cleaning of stations and apparatus throughout the shift, as appropriate
- CONDUCT ALL PRIMARY DECON BEFORE ENTERING STATION. DO NOT CONTAMINATE STATION
- Non-transport unit crews will perform decon on SCENE, if possible (see below)

Actions if Aerosol Generating Procedures Performed on Suspected or Known COVID-19 Patient

AT SCENE (If unable to DECON at scene, complete #1-4 on ramp NOT INSIDE THE BAY and Decon inside of rig wearing PPE):
1. Doff and bag all PPE
2. Decon boots with spray CaviCide1 or bleach
3. Decon goggles and wash with soap and water
4. Doff and bag uniforms
5. Don spare uniform from go bag
6. Place bagged uniforms in exterior rig compartment
7. Return to station
8. Launder contaminated uniforms wearing PPE. (Hot water & hot drying)
9. Shower and don fresh uniform

Actions if NO Aerosol Generating Procedures Performed

AT SCENE
1. Properly dispose of PPE, as per PPE Re-use Practices
2. Wash hands
3. Decon goggles, then wash with soap and water
4. Launder uniforms as appropriate per agency infection control guidelines
### Transport Unit DECON CDC Guidelines

#### Actions: Cleaning EMS Transport Unit after Transporting a Patient with Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19

1. Keep all doors open while delivering patient to allow maximum ventilation in patient compartment
2. Wear PPE gown and gloves for rig decon. Also wear goggles and face shield or facemask, if splash or spray anticipated
3. Pre-clean to remove gross contaminants prior to disinfection
4. Use routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g. use cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying disinfectant)
5. Clean and disinfect all surfaces that patient may have contacted and all surfaces that may have been contaminated by aerosol generation
6. Clean and disinfect all reusable patient-care equipment before use on another patient

#### Background Information:

- Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures are appropriate for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
- Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are recommended for use against SARS-CoV-2. Refer to List N on EPA website
- “CaviCide1 has demonstrated effectiveness against viruses similar to SARS-CoV-2 on hard non-porous surfaces. Therefore, this product can be used against SARS-CoV-2 when used in accordance with the directions on hard, non-porous surfaces.”
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Transport Unit Decon Checklist

## PPE Conservation

### Purpose
To continue to deliver the highest standard of care to our patients while also conserving limited PPE inventory and continuing to eliminate risk of exposure to EMS providers.

### PPE Supply Conservation Practices

- **USE PPE SUPPLY CONSERVATION PRACTICES ON ALL EMS CALLS**
- NO non-essential personnel in hot zone
- ONE crew member with current department level PPE conducts initial doorway triage
- Additional crew members, also with current department level PPE on stand-by outside of hot zone
- Use minimum number of providers to safely treat and move patient
- Additional personnel/back-up crews stand-by with PPE ready but not donned
- Mobilize additional personnel with current department level PPE based on circumstances and need

### PPE Re-use Practices

**N-95 Respirator Masks**

- N-95 Masks will be discarded after any of the below:
  - Mask obviously contaminated
  - Provider within 6 feet of patient during any aerosol-generating procedure
  - after 48 hours of reuse on shift
  - after 5 total UV-C decontamination cycles
  - when fit/mask seal is compromised due to reuse
- APR Masks shall be decontaminated after patient contact:
  - Provider was never within 6 feet of patient (can re-use right away)
  - UV-C decon when provider had patient contact

**Gowns**

- Shall be reused until there is risk of contamination or show signs or wear
  - This includes gowns worn by stand-by personnel who did not have close contact with patient

**Goggles and Face Shields**

- Shall be reused after following recommended cleaning and decontamination

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April 22-May 6  Subject to change based on current recommendations
UV-C Decontamination of APR Masks  
(Using 3B Medical LUMIN®)

Decon Mask:
- Wipe the mask but not filters
- Place contaminated APRS in supplied brown paper bag

UV-C Decontamination Procedure
- Used mask should be placed in a brown paper bag after call
- Use hand hygiene before and after removing items from the LUMIN UV-C to avoid cross contamination
- Wear clean pair of gloves to handle mask
- Follow manufacturer’s directions for use:
  - Place item inside drawer on platform and close
  - Pink filters up
  - Push button to start 5-minute cycle
  - Green light will appear and LUMIN® will beep when decontamination cycle is complete
- With clean hands, remove and inspect item
- Ensure silicone face seal is firmly attached to plastic body
- Inspect white exhalation valve to ensure they are properly seated
- Ensure no obvious degradation of material and store mask
- Clean the exterior of the LUMIN® UV-C with Wipes after each use
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BC: Sick Employee Workflow

On Duty
- Captain
- BC

Off Duty
- Contact BC

BC Sick Employee Workflow

- Yes?
- Surgical Mask on employee and separate from crew (if on-duty) and send home.

COVID-19 Symptoms

- No?
- Add to daily exception sheet, daily sick tracking table, and complete absence report if needed.

- Contact on-duty MSO 425-257-7940
- MSO add employee to Daily Call sheet
- Testing process

Complete BC Sick Employee Algorithm

Contact MSO/HR

Station Safety & Sick Personnel Workflow

BC Algorithm
14-Day Symptom Tracking
Daily Shift Tracking
BC: Sick Employee Algorithm

When any employee reports sick (On or Off duty), check the following:

Employee has:

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If “Yes”, check who:

_____ a patient
_____ a family member, friend, co-worker, and/or other

If YES to ANY of the above:

• Roster as: “Off, Sick-Pending” for next 72 hours
• Have Employee Call the MSO
  - MSO phone number (425) 257-7940

If NO to ALL of the above questions:

Note on daily exception sheet as you normally would
Complete an absence report if one hasn’t already been filled out for the employee
Add to daily sick tracking table
**COVID-19 Best Practices**

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- PPE Preservation
- PPE Conservation
- UV-C N-95 Mask Disinfection

**Station Safety & Sick Personnel**

- Workflow
- BC Algorithm

**14-Day Symptom Tracking**

14-Day Symptom Monitoring Tracker for Employee Exposure/Potential Exposure

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<th>AM or PM</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Felt feverish</th>
<th>Cough</th>
<th>Sore Throat</th>
<th>Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath</th>
<th>Abdominal discomfort</th>
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*If symptoms of COVID-19 are present, follow "COVID-19 Employee Exposure Guidance" form and notify MSO/DIO for SARS-COV-2 testing.*

**14-Day Symptom Monitoring Tracker for Employee Exposure/Potential Exposure**

- Date
- AM or PM
- Temperature
- Felt feverish
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath
- Abdominal discomfort
- Muscle aches/headache
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

**April 22-May 6** Subject to change based on current recommendations
## COVID-19 Best Practices

- Station/Crew Protective Measures
- Crew Safety Response
- Department PPE Checklist
- Aerosol Safety
- $O_2$ – Airway Mgt.
- Transportation
- Notify Hospital
- Decontamination
- Crew Decon Checklist: Transport Unit
- Crew Decon Checklist: Non-transport Unit
- Transport Unit Decon Checklist

### PPE Preservation

- PPE Conservation
- UV-C N-95 Mask Disinfection

## Station Safety & Sick Personnel

- Workflow
- BC Algorithm
- 14-Day Symptom Tracking

### Daily Shift Tracking

#### Daily Shift Monitoring

*If symptoms of COVID-19 are present, follow "COVID-19 Employee Exposure Guidance" Form and notify MSO/DICO for SARS-CoV-2 testing.*

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