

Office of the Medical Director

Excellence, Compassion, Partnership, Integrity

CoVID-19 Update – 3.24.2020

Visit <http://www.regionsems.com/covid-19> for additional resources

Limit Exposures and Conserve PPE

- Limit the number of providers involved in patient care. One person should evaluate the patient. If the patient is stable and can walk, there may be no need to involve anyone else.
- Whenever possible ask the patient to meet you at the front door to avoid entering the house/facility.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of separation from the patient when not performing hands-on exams or procedures. First responders should perform an initial size-up through a window or from the door if possible and stage for EMS if the patient's mental status and respiratory effort are adequate.
- If the patient does require transport but is not likely to require close monitoring, consider transporting in the back of the ambulance alone without a provider.
- No riders in the ambulance unless the patient absolutely requires a guardian or support person.
- *PPE supplies are critically limited.* Conserve the N-95 masks unless absolutely needed – specifically for aerosol-generating procedures (nebulizers, CPAP, suctioning, BVM use, advanced airway intervention).
- Current recommended minimum PPE includes a standard facemask, eye protection, gown, and gloves.
- No nebulizers in the ambulance!!! If absolutely needed, administer treatments outside of the ambulance.
- In-line viral respiratory filters should be used with nebs and airway devices if available.
- *Practice social distancing as much as possible.* Avoid gathering in the ambulance entrances at hospitals and be mindful of where you are removing and disposing of your PPE to limit exposure to other crews and patients.

Encourage Alternative Transport

- Encourage non-transport or alternative transport options if the patient is stable, in no distress, and only seeking evaluation for possible CoVID-19.
- Contact medical control (MRCC) if needed to assist with transport decisions.
- In order to minimize radio traffic, there is no need to call in MRCC report for routine low-risk non-transport.
- *Cardiac arrests should not be transported* unless there is something the hospital might be able to offer (such as ECMO or other advanced procedure).

Testing and Quarantine

- CoVID-19 testing is limited – we are generally only testing those needing hospitalization for respiratory distress.
- Testing of **symptomatic** public safety professionals is available. More information is available in a separate document online at <http://www.regionsems.com/covid-19>.
- Screen asymptomatic staff by checking temperatures at least every 12 hours.
- There is no need to self-quarantine if you are exposed to a possible CoVID-19 patient, **AS LONG AS** appropriate PPE was used.
- These are stressful times. Make sure to take care of your own well-being and mental health.