

Metro Region EMS System General Patient Care and PPE Guidelines for First Responders



Pre-Arrival: PSAP & Dispatch

When feasible, **ALL** callers should be screened for **Cough, Fever, or Shortness of Breath**

Notify **ALL** responders of any **Positive Infectious Screen**; notify primary/secondary PSAPs

Approach to Scene

ALL calls: If safe, only one responder should make contact within 6 feet of any person

ALL medical calls: If safe, assess patients from the **doorway/threshold** or through a **window**
-If patient is awake, able to speak in full sentences and not in immediate danger: **observe from door**

Positive Infectious Screen: Wear **PPE** (Below) for all providers within 6 feet person

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Gloves: Wear disposable gloves for all calls, remove after each call

Mask: Simple surgical mask is adequate for most contact with a **Positive Infectious Screen**

-**N95** should be reserved for events that may generate aerosols. For example:

- Airway interventions such as bag-valve-mask; CPR; Nebulizer treatment
- Law enforcement: Use of force encounters

Gown: If safe, a disposable gown should be worn for a **Positive Infectious Screen**

-Alternatively, waterproof coveralls, rain jackets or similar can be used, but must be decontaminated

Eye protection: Splash-resistant eye protection should be worn for all calls

-Reusable eye protection is more economical but must be decontaminated

Clean-Up

Perform meticulous hand hygiene with soap and water or hand sanitizer

Dispose of all disposable equipment at the scene if possible

Decontaminate all reusable equipment at the scene

- Recommend using virucidal wipes, bleach solution, or similar
- Handle contaminated gear with gloves
- Contaminated uniforms should be washed with standard laundry soap

Current as of March 20, 2020

These guidelines may change according to CDC or MDH recommendations.