



# Operational Bulletin

**Ops. Bulletin #:** OB-20-03.e

**Subject:** Interim Guideline for EMS Response for CoVID-19 (Revised)

**Date:** April 15, 2020

**To:**

- All Department Members
- Fire Suppression Personnel
- Fire Prevention Personnel
- Fire Communications Personnel

- All Chief Officers
- All Company Officers & Acting Company Officers
- All Engineers & Certified Driver/Operators
- CVPD
- Public Works
- Other

**From:** Harry Muns, Deputy Chief  
Director of Operations

STA:	Int:	Date:	Int:	Date:
A:				
B:				
C:				
Other:				

**Disposition:** Read/Post/Retain

### Interim Guideline for EMS Response for CoVID-19

This bulletin is intended to provide guidance when responding to calls for service (CFS) for suspected or confirmed CoVID-19 patients.

Fire Department personnel should check temperature twice daily for new fever and self-monitor for respiratory symptoms (including cough or shortness of breath). Self-isolate at home if these systems develop.

Chula Vista Fire Department Medical Director CoVID-19 EMS Bulletin 20-02, should be used by Fire Department personnel to gain a better clinical understanding of this virus, and for a list of definitions.

### Information:

Metro ECDC call takers will conduct medical surveillance questions for all 911 calls that may involve a medical patient.

- Has this patient been tested and confirmed positive for CoVID-19 by County of San Diego Health Department; or been in close contact with anyone that has?
- Is the patient in isolation or quarantine?
- Does the patient have a fever, cough, or muscle aches?

Each of the questions with answers will be embedded within the CAD notes on the MDC and available as a further source of information for company officers and crew members.

Utilize patient history questions to obtain any additional information that may help predict suspected CoVID-19 patients.

### Notification of Responding Units:

If en-route or on-scene of a suspected or confirmed CoVID-19 CFS, notify incoming assigned resources of the need for infectious control PPE.

**Response to Confirmed or Potential CoVID-19 Patients:**

Officers shall review MDC notes to ensure response PPE for Fire Department personnel is consistent with the call for service type. A mask should be applied to the CFS patient at the incident. Company Officers will minimize the number of Fire Department personnel necessary for close contact of the patient and the space they occupy.

It is **required for all medical patients** to wear the following PPE for all medical patient CFS:

- Gloves
- Eye Protection
- N95 Mask
- **Procedure Mask Applied to Patient**

Required PPE for potential or confirmed CoVID-19 patients **with** aerosolizing procedures:

- Gloves
- Eye Protection
- N95 Mask
- Procedure Mask Applied to Patient
- Gown

Review and follow San Diego County EMS policy 415A (attached document) regarding assess and refer options for patients during the CoVID-19 pandemic. Assess and refer is used for low risk patients and is a shared decision-making process to provide the best, most appropriate care for individual patients, including minimizing their risk of disease exposure. For eligible patients, assess and refer intends to keep patients at home and seek follow-up treatment as needed by their physician.

In the event a potential and/or confirmed CoVID-19 patient is assessed and/or treated by Fire Department personnel **wearing PPE**, the following shall occur:

- Notify base hospital of potential CoVID-19 patient
  - Via transport ambulance crew patient report, or by making direct contact via radio report.
  - Company officer will ensure notification takes place.
- Select “review requested” on the patient disposition page of ePCR and indicate “yes”.

In the event a potential and/or confirmed CoVID-19 patient is assessed and/or treated by Fire Department personnel and **PPE is not worn**, the following shall occur:

- Notify base hospital of potential CoVID-19 patient
  - Via transport ambulance crew patient report, or by making direct contact via radio report.
  - Company officer will ensure notification takes place.
- Complete County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Communicable Disease Exposure Reporting Form and provide to the receiving hospital, EMS Chief, and to each Fire Department member associated with the exposure.
  - Form is located in each apparatus EMS clipboard.
  - The form shall be completed (handwritten) and provided to the receiving hospital.
  - The form shall be photographed using department issued phones, then emailed to the EMS Division Chief and each exposed Department member.
- Complete the Chula Vista Fire Department Exposure Report and process using normal procedures.
- Complete all injury paperwork and process using normal procedures.
- Company officer will ensure all necessary reports are complete and processed appropriately.
- Select “review requested” on the patient disposition page of ePCR and indicate “yes”.
- Company officer shall notify their respective BC as soon as possible
- BC shall notify the EMS Division Chief and Operations Deputy Chief as soon as possible

### **Decontamination:**

Fire Department personnel shall decontaminate per the Exposure Control Plan, pages 37-40.

### **Biohazard Waste:**

PPE should be carefully removed after patient contact and discarded appropriately in the transport ambulance. If this is not possible, PPE should be discarded appropriately at either FS2 or FS6 biohazardous waste sites.

### **Supplies:**

All requisite supplies are readily available through the EMS equipment order form. The EMS Division has stock located at the FS2 warehouse as well as a surge stockpile in other storage locations in the city.

### **Monitoring/Quarantine:**

For **asymptomatic** personnel, monitoring thereafter may include any one of the following monitoring methods determined through consultation with the local health department:

- *Self-Monitoring with Delegated Supervision*
  - Personnel has no work restrictions.
  - Personnel will be advised to check his or her temperature twice a day to detect the presence of a fever (>100.4°F).
  - If at any time, personnel develop symptoms (see below) they should NOT report to work and contact the duty BC for further direction.

After an exposure to a CoVID-19 *suspected or confirmed positive* patient, and in the event, personnel become **symptomatic** with fever, cough, or shortness of breath; personnel shall follow the following directives:

- **Do not report to work.**
- **Seek medical attention if necessary.**
- **Contact the duty BC for further direction.**
- **Employee may be assigned Active Monitoring aka Quarantine**
  - Personnel are excluded from work following the 7/3 guidelines; excluded from work 7 days from symptom onset and 3 days fever free (w/out fever reducer; Tylenol, Motrin, Etc...)
    - This will be determined by the Fire Department through consultation with the local health department and/or Occupational Medicine.
  - The local health department will assume responsibility for establishing regular communication with the potentially exposed personnel to assess for the presence of fever or respiratory symptoms.
  - Hotel/motel quarantine housing will be available for first responders if desired.

Personnel that are assigned “Active Monitoring aka Quarantine” by the Fire Department will be placed on Department Authorized Leave (DAL). If personnel become symptomatic, tested, and confirmed as having CoVID-19 they will be placed on Injury Leave (IL).



# Operational Bulletin

**Ops. Bulletin #:**      **OB-20-03.c**

**Subject:**    **Interim Guideline for EMS  
Response for CoVID-19 (Revised)**

**Date:**    March 27, 2020

- To:**
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Department Members                | <input type="checkbox"/> All Chief Officers                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Suppression Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> All Company Officers & Acting Company Officers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Prevention Personnel             | <input type="checkbox"/> All Engineers & Certified Driver/Operators     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Communications Personnel         | <input type="checkbox"/> CVPD   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works                                   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

**From:** Harry Muns, Deputy Chief  
Director of Operations

STA:	Int:	Date:	Int:	Date:
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Other:				

**Disposition:**                      Read/Post/Retain

## Interim Guideline for EMS Response for CoVID-19

This bulletin is intended to provide guidance when responding to calls for service (CFS) for suspected or confirmed CoVID-19 patients.

Fire Department personnel should check temperature twice daily for new fever and self-monitor for respiratory symptoms (including cough or shortness of breath). Self-isolate at home if these systems develop.

Chula Vista Fire Department Medical Director CoVID-19 EMS Bulletin 20-02, should be used by Fire Department personnel to gain a better clinical understanding of this virus, and for a list of definitions.

### Information:

Metro ECDC call takers will conduct medical surveillance questions for all 911 calls that may involve a medical patient.

- Has this patient been tested and confirmed positive for CoVID-19 by County of San Diego Health Department; or been in close contact with anyone that has?
- Is the patient in isolation or quarantine?
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Each of the questions with answers will be embedded within the CAD notes on the MDC and available as a further source of information for company officers and crew members.

Utilize patient history questions to obtain any additional information that may help predict suspected CoVID-19 patients.

### Notification of Responding Units:

If en-route or on-scene of a suspected or confirmed CoVID-19 CFS, notify incoming assigned resources of the need for infectious control PPE.

**Response to Confirmed or Potential CoVID-19 Patients:**

Officers shall review MDC notes to ensure response PPE for Fire Department personnel is consistent with the call for service type. When appropriate, a mask should be applied to the CFS patient at the incident. Company Officers will minimize the number of Fire Department personnel necessary for close contact of the patient and the space they occupy.

It is **required for all medical patients** to wear the following PPE for all medical patient CFS:

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- Eye Protection
- N95 Mask
- **Procedure Mask Applied to Patient**

Required PPE for potential or confirmed CoVID-19 patients **and/or during aerosolizing procedures:**

- Gloves
- Eye Protection
- N95 Mask
- Procedure Mask Applied to Patient
- Gown

**Review and follow San Diego County EMS policy 415A (attached document) regarding assess and refer options for patients during the CoVID-19 pandemic. Assess and refer is used for low risk patients and is a shared decision-making process to provide the best, most appropriate care for individual patients, including minimizing their risk of disease exposure. For eligible patients, assess and refer intends to keep patients at home and seek follow-up treatment as needed by their physician.**

In the event a potential and/or confirmed CoVID-19 patient is assessed and/or treated by Fire Department personnel **wearing PPE**, the following shall occur:

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  - Via transport ambulance crew patient report, or by making direct contact via radio report.
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Fire Department personnel shall decontaminate per the Exposure Control Plan, pages 37-40.

### Biohazard Waste:

PPE should be carefully removed after patient contact and discarded appropriately in the transport ambulance. If this is not possible, PPE should be discarded appropriately at either FS2 or FS6 biohazardous waste sites.

### Supplies:

All requisite supplies are readily available through the EMS equipment order form. The EMS Division has stock located at the FS2 warehouse as well as a surge stockpile in other storage locations in the city.

### Monitoring/Quarantine:

For asymptomatic personnel, monitoring thereafter may include any one of the following monitoring methods determined through consultation with the local health department:

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After an exposure to a CoVID-19 *suspected or confirmed positive* patient, and in the event, personnel become symptomatic with fever, cough, or shortness of breath; personnel shall follow the following directives:

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- **Contact the duty BC for further direction.**
- **Employee may be assigned Active Monitoring aka Quarantine**
  - Personnel are excluded from work following the 7/3 guidelines; excluded from work 7 days from symptom onset and 3 days fever free (w/out fever reducer; Tylenol, Motrin, Etc...)
    - This will be determined by the Fire Department through consultation with the local health department **and/or Occupational Medicine.**
  - The local health department will assume responsibility for establishing regular communication with the potentially exposed personnel to assess for the presence of fever or respiratory symptoms.
  - Hotel/motel quarantine housing will be available for first responders if desired.

Personnel that are assigned “Active Monitoring aka Quarantine” by the Fire Department will be placed on Department Authorized Leave (DAL). If personnel become symptomatic, tested, and confirmed as having CoVID-19 they will be placed on Injury Leave (IL).

### Attachment(s):

San Diego Co EMS Policy S-415A  
Home Isolation Instructions

**Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol**

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**SUBJECT:** Assess and Refer Option for Patients  
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**POLICY NO:** S-415A  
**PAGE:** 1 of 5  
**DATE:** March 26, 2020

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**AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.94, 1797.153 and Division 1010, Section 101310 and [State of California Proclamation of State of Emergency, March 4, 2020](#)

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## I. PURPOSE

- A.** To guide paramedic evaluation and transport decisions for patients experiencing mild respiratory illness possibly related to COVID-19.
1. Based on the current science, most persons with COVID-19 experience mild illness and fully recover.
  2. Those at [high risk for severe illness](#) and/or complications include patients who are over 60 years of age, those of any age with compromised immune systems, and those with underlying medical conditions.
  3. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that low-risk patients potentially infected with COVID-19 experiencing mild disease self-isolate at home unless symptoms worsen.

## II. BACKGROUND

### A. Definitions

Designated Decision  
Maker (DDM):

An individual to whom a person has legally given the authority to make medical decisions concerning the person's health care (i.e., a parent, legal guardian, an "attorney-in-fact" through a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPAHC), or an "agent" through an Advance Health Care Directive).

**Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol**

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**SUBJECT:** Assess and Refer Option for Patients  
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**POLICY NO:** S-415A  
**PAGE:** 2 of 5  
**DATE:** March 26, 2020

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Emergency Patient:

Any person for whom the 9-1-1/EMS system has been activated and who meets the following criteria:

1. Has a chief complaint or suspected illness/injury
2. Is not oriented to person, place, time, or event
3. Requires or requests field treatment or transport
4. Is a minor who is not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and is ill or injured, or appears to be ill or injured

Low-Risk Patients with  
Potential COVID-19 Infections:

Patients greater than 2 years of age and less than 60 years of age requesting transport solely for COVID-19 evaluation, with low grade fever and/or respiratory complaints with NONE of the following:

1. A complaint of shortness of breath, chest pain, or altered level of consciousness,
2. Abnormal vital signs for age,
3. History of significant comorbid disease including COPD, CHF, diabetes, cardiac disease, renal failure, immunodeficiency, chemotherapy, or pregnancy,
4. Residents of skilled nursing facilities,
5. Emergency medical condition per paramedic judgment.

Patient-Centered Care:

Defined as:

1. A patient's health needs are the deciding factor behind all health decisions and quality measurements.
2. Providing care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs, and

**Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
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**SUBJECT:** Assess and Refer Option for Patients  
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**POLICY NO:** S-415A  
**PAGE:** 3 of 5  
**DATE:** March 26, 2020

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values, and ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions.

3. Focusing care on the needs of the person rather than the needs of the service.

### III. POLICY

#### A. Patients eligible for Assess and Refer Option:

1. Low-risk patients with symptoms of mild respiratory infection (e.g., fever  $<100.4^{\circ}$  F, non-productive cough, upper respiratory illness) should be advised that they may self-isolate at home.
2. Paramedic assessment will determine if the patient can be categorized as a low-risk patient. The assess and refer procedure shall not apply for patients with any of the following:
  - a. Abnormal vital signs including SpO<sub>2</sub>  $<95\%$ , RR  $>20$ , or observed labored breathing.
  - b. Complaints of respiratory distress or chest pain.
  - c. Altered level of consciousness.
  - d. Suspicion the patient (or DDM) is impaired by alcohol or drugs.
  - e. The patient/DDM is unable to comprehend or demonstrate an understanding of his/her illness.
3. Base hospital contact should be considered as a resource.
4. Patient-centered care shall be of the utmost importance.
  - a. Paramedic judgment of the patient's ability to safely self-isolate and follow medical advice shall inform the Assess and Refer decision process.

- #### B. High-risk patients, those with pronounced symptoms, or those not meeting criteria as a low-risk patient shall be treated and transported per San Diego County EMS Policies S-407 and S-415, and County EMS Medical Director memo [EMS Patient Destination Considerations During The COVID-19 Outbreak](#).

**Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol**

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**SUBJECT:** Assess and Refer Option for Patients  
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**POLICY NO:** S-415A  
**PAGE:** 4 of 5  
**DATE:** March 26, 2020

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**C. Assess and Refer Procedure:**

1. EMS personnel shall advise patients directly or via their DDM to:
  - a. Contact 2-1-1 and/or their medical home's COVID-19 telephone screening center.
  - b. Stay at home and seek follow-up treatment as needed with their physician, preferably by telephone or tele visit, if their symptoms worsen.
  - c. Isolate themselves at home, apply appropriate social/physical distancing, avoid contact with high-risk persons, and self-monitor their condition for worsening symptoms. For patients unable to isolate at home, EMS personnel can call the Care and Shelter hotline at 858-715-2350 or instruct the patient to call 2-1-1.
  - d. Isolation period should continue until the patient is fever-free for 3 days without the use of antipyretics, with diminishing URI symptoms (and it is at least 7 days after symptom onset) and cleared by the patient's healthcare provider/physician based on current guidelines from the CDC and County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Public Health Services. As guidelines are updated, the newest version should be used.
  - e. The patient's desire for testing does not warrant transport via EMS. Patients may discuss eligibility for testing outside of the 9-1-1 system with their healthcare provider.
  - f. The advice given shall be documented. The following statement is recommended:
    - i. **"It appears that you do not require emergency ambulance transportation to the hospital emergency department. You should seek care via your regular healthcare provider or a doctor's office or clinic, particularly if symptoms worsen. Call 2-1-1 for advice if you do not have access to other healthcare. If you develop shortness of breath, confusion, dizziness, or other severe symptoms, recontact 9-1-1 immediately."**
  - g. EMS personnel shall deliver home care instructions and referral contact information (2-1-1 or other contact appropriate for patient-centered care). These instructions may include [County of San Diego Home Isolation Instructions for COVID-19](#), [the California EMSA home care guidance](#), or similar documents.

**Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol**

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**SUBJECT:** Assess and Refer Option for Patients  
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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**PAGE:** 5 of 5  
**DATE:** March 26, 2020

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2. "Assess and Refer" represents a shared decision-making process to provide the best, most appropriate care for individual patients, including minimizing their risk of disease exposure. EMS personnel shall not require patients assessed and referred to sign the release/AMA section of the Patient Care Record, as this implies that the patient is at significant risk by not using the EMS system for treatment and/or transportation.
3. If the patient/DDM requests that the patient be transported after assurance that the transport is not recommended, EMS personnel should honor the request and transport per County of San Diego EMS Policy S-407 "Triage to Appropriate Facility."
4. EMS personnel transporting patients with suspected COVID-19 shall notify the receiving facility in advance, prior to arrival and may be directed to a screening area other than the emergency department.
5. Paramedic Service Provider agencies shall review every Assess and Refer patient contact within 72 hours for criteria compliance. Inappropriate Assess and Refer patient contacts shall be forwarded to agency's Base Hospital for immediate review.



# Operational Bulletin

**Ops. Bulletin #:** OB-20-03.b

**Subject:** Interim Guideline for EMS Response for CoVID-19 (Revised)

**Date:** March 17, 2020

- To:**
- All Department Members
  - Fire Suppression Personnel
  - Fire Prevention Personnel
  - Fire Communications Personnel

- All Chief Officers
- All Company Officers & Acting Company Officers
- All Engineers & Certified Driver/Operators
- CVPD
- Public Works
- Other

**From:** Harry Muns, Deputy Chief  
Director of Operations

STA:	Int:	Date:	Int:	Date:
A:				
B:				
C:				
Other:				

**Disposition:** Read/Post/Retain

### Interim Guideline for EMS Response for CoVID-19

This bulletin is intended to provide guidance when responding to calls for service (CFS) for suspected or confirmed CoVID-19 patients.

Fire Department personnel should check temperature twice daily for new fever and self-monitor for respiratory symptoms (including cough or shortness of breath). Self-isolate at home if these symptoms develop.

Chula Vista Fire Department Medical Director CoVID-19 EMS Bulletin 20-02, should be used by Fire Department personnel to gain a better clinical understanding of this virus, and for a list of definitions.

### Information:

Metro ECDC call takers will conduct medical surveillance questions for all 911 calls that may involve a medical patient.

- Has this patient been tested and confirmed positive for CoVID-19 by County of San Diego Health Department; or been in close contact with anyone that has?
- Is the patient in isolation or quarantine?
- Does the patient have a fever, cough, or muscle aches?

Each of the questions with answers will be embedded within the CAD notes on the MDC and available as a further source of information for company officers and crew members.

Utilize patient history questions to obtain any additional information that may help predict suspected CoVID-19 patients.

### Notification of Responding Units:

If en-route or on-scene of a suspected or confirmed CoVID-19 CFS, notify incoming assigned resources of the need for infectious control PPE.

### Response to Confirmed or Potential CoVID-19 Patients:

Officers shall review MDC notes to ensure response PPE for Fire Department personnel is consistent with the call for service type. When appropriate, a mask should be applied to the CFS patient at the incident. Company Officers will minimize the number of Fire Department personnel necessary for close contact of the patient and the space they occupy.

It is **strongly recommended** to wear the following PPE for all medical patient CFS:

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- N95 Mask
- Procedure Mask Applied to Patient if necessary

Required PPE for potential or confirmed CoVID-19 patients:

- Gloves
- Eye Protection
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In the event a potential and/or confirmed CoVID-19 patient is **assessed and/or** treated by Fire Department personnel **wearing PPE**, the following shall occur:

- Notify base hospital of potential CoVID-19 patient
  - Via transport ambulance crew patient report, or by making direct contact via radio report.
  - Company officer will ensure notification takes place.
- **Select “review requested” on the patient disposition page of ePCR and indicate “yes”.**
- Company officer shall notify their respective BC as soon as possible.
- BC shall notify the EMS Division Chief and Operations Deputy Chief as soon as possible.

In the event a potential and/or confirmed CoVID-19 patient is **assessed and/or** treated by Fire Department personnel and **PPE is not worn**, the following shall occur:

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  - Via transport ambulance crew patient report, or by making direct contact via radio report.
  - Company officer will ensure notification takes place.
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### **Supplies:**

All requisite supplies are readily available through the EMS equipment order form. The EMS Division has stock located at the FS2 warehouse as well as a surge stockpile in other storage locations in the city.

### **Monitoring/Quarantine:**

For **asymptomatic** personnel, monitoring thereafter may include any one of the following monitoring methods determined through consultation with the local health department:

- *Active Monitoring aka Quarantine*
  - Personnel are excluded from work for 14 days after last exposure.
  - The local health department will assume responsibility for establishing regular communication with the potentially exposed personnel to assess for the presence of fever or respiratory symptoms.
- *Self-Monitoring with Delegated Supervision*
  - Personnel has no work restrictions.
  - Personnel will be advised to check his or her temperature twice a day to detect the presence of a fever (>100.4°F).
  - If at any time, personnel develop symptoms (**see below**) they should NOT report to work and contact the duty BC for further direction.

After an exposure to a CoVID-19 *confirmed positive* patient, and in the event, personnel become **symptomatic** with fever, cough, or shortness of breath; personnel shall follow the following directives:

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  - Personnel are excluded from work for 14 days after last exposure.
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# Operational Bulletin

**Ops. Bulletin #:** OB-20-03.a

**Subject:** Interim Guideline for EMS Response for CoVID-19 (Revised)

**Date:** March 14, 2020

- To:**
- All Department Members
  - Fire Suppression Personnel
  - Fire Prevention Personnel
  - Fire Communications Personnel

- All Chief Officers
- All Company Officers & Acting Company Officers
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**From:** Harry Muns, Deputy Chief  
Director of Operations

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**Disposition:** Read/Post/Retain

### Interim Guideline for EMS Response for CoVID-19

This bulletin is intended to provide guidance when responding to calls for service (CFS) for suspected or confirmed CoVID-19 patients.

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### Information:

Metro ECDC call takers will conduct medical surveillance questions for all 911 calls that may involve a medical patient.

- Has the patient traveled internationally in past 14 days?
- Does the patient have a fever?
- Does the patient have a cough?

Each of the three questions with answers will be embedded within the CAD notes on the MDC and available as a further source of information for company officers and crew members.

### Notification of Responding Units:

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In the event a potential and/or confirmed CoVID-19 patient is treated by Fire Department personnel and **PPE is not worn**, the following shall occur:

- Notify base hospital of potential CoVID-19 patient
  - Via transport ambulance crew patient report, or by making direct contact via radio report.
  - Company officer will ensure notification takes place.
- Complete County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Communicable Disease Exposure Reporting Form and provide to the receiving hospital, EMS Chief, and to each Fire Department member associated with the exposure.
  - Form is located in each apparatus EMS clipboard.
  - The form shall be completed (handwritten) and provided to the receiving hospital.
  - The form shall be photographed using department issued phones, then emailed to the EMS Division Chief and each exposed Department member.
- Complete the Chula Vista Fire Department Exposure Report and process using normal procedures.
- Complete all injury paperwork and process using normal procedures.
- Company officer will ensure all necessary reports are complete and processed appropriately.
- Company officer shall notify their respective BC as soon as possible
- BC shall notify the EMS Division Chief and Operations Deputy Chief as soon as possible

**Decontamination:**

Fire Department personnel shall decontaminate per the Exposure Control Plan, pages 37-39.

**Biohazard Waste:**

PPE should be carefully removed after patient contact and discarded appropriately in the transport ambulance. If this is not possible, PPE should be discarded appropriately at either FS2 or FS6 biohazardous waste sites.

**Supplies:**

All requisite supplies are readily available through the EMS equipment order form. The EMS Division has stock located at the FS2 warehouse as well as a surge stockpile in other storage locations in the city.

### Monitoring/Quarantine:

For **asymptomatic** personnel, monitoring thereafter will be dependent on the exposure risk category (refer to EMS Bulletin 20-02). Which may include any one of the following monitoring methods:

- *Active Monitoring aka Quarantine*
  - Personnel are excluded from work for 14 days after last exposure.
    - This will be determined by the Fire Department through consultation with the local health department.
  - The local health department will assume responsibility for establishing regular communication with the potentially exposed personnel to assess for the presence of fever or respiratory symptoms.
- *Self-Monitoring with Delegated Supervision*
  - Personnel has no work restrictions.
  - Personnel will be advised to check his or her temperature twice a day to detect the presence of a fever (>100.4°F).
  - If at any time, personnel develop symptoms (see above) they should NOT report to work and contact the duty BC for further direction.

After an exposure to a CoVID-19 *confirmed positive* patient, and in the event, personnel become **symptomatic** with fever, cough, or shortness of breath; personnel shall follow the following directives:

- **Do not report to work.**
- **Seek medical attention if necessary.**
- **Contact the duty BC for further direction.**

Personnel that are assigned “Active Monitoring aka Quarantine” by the Fire Department will be placed on Department Authorized Leave (DAL). If personnel become symptomatic, tested, and confirmed as having CoVID-19 they will be placed on Injury Leave (IL).



# Operational Bulletin

**Ops. Bulletin #:**            **OB-20-03**

**Subject:**    **Interim Guideline for EMS  
Response for CoVID-19**

**Date:**    March 10, 2020

- To:**
- All Department Members
  - Fire Suppression Personnel
  - Fire Prevention Personnel
  - Fire Communications Personnel

- All Chief Officers
- All Company Officers & Acting Company Officers
- All Engineers & Certified Driver/Operators
- CVPD
- Public Works
- Other

**From:** Harry Muns, Deputy Chief  
Director of Operations

STA:	Int:	Date:	Int:	Date:
A:				
B:				
C:				
Other:				

**Disposition:**            Read/Post/Retain

### **Interim Guideline for EMS Response for CoVID-19**

This bulletin is intended to provide guidance when responding to calls for service (CFS) for suspected or confirmed CoVID-19 patients.

Chula Vista Fire Department Medical Director CoVID-19 EMS Bulletin 20-02, should be used by Fire Department personnel to gain a better clinical understanding of this virus, and for a list of definitions.

### **Information:**

When 911 calls are received and related to Breathing Problems and Sick Person CFS, Metro ECDC call takers will conduct medical surveillance questions.

- Has the patient traveled internationally in past 14 days?
- Does the patient have a fever?
- Does the patient have a cough?

Each of the three questions with answers will be embedded within the CAD notes on the MDC and available as a further source of information for company officers and crew members.

### **Notification of Responding Units:**

If en-route or on-scene of a suspected or confirmed CoVID-19 CFS, notify incoming assigned resources of the need for infectious control PPE.

### **Response to Confirmed or Potential CoVID-19 Patients:**

Officers shall review MDC notes to ensure response PPE for Fire Department personnel is consistent with the call for service type. When appropriate, a mask should be applied to the CFS patient at the incident. Company Officers will minimize the number of Fire Department personnel necessary for close contact of the patient and the space they occupy.

## Operational Bulletin #20-03

Required PPE for potential or confirmed CoVID-19 patients:

- Gloves
- Eye Protection
- N95 Mask
- Procedure Mask Applied to Patient
- Gown

In the event a potential and/or confirmed CoVID-19 patient is treated by Fire Department personnel **wearing PPE**, the following shall occur:

- Notify base hospital of potential CoVID-19 patient
  - Via transport ambulance crew patient report, or by making direct contact via radio report.
  - Company officer will ensure notification takes place.
- Company officer shall notify their respective BC as soon as possible.
- BC shall notify the EMS Division Chief and Operations Deputy Chief as soon as possible.

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