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COVID-19

INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR EMS

EVALUATION

PRECAUTIONS

ALERT

DECONTAMINATE

DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES

Follow Standard Infection Control Procedures per Protocol with an emphasis on proper hand hygiene.

In addition, incorporate CDC guidelines:

- Leave the rear doors of the ambulance open while transferring care to hospital staff to allow for sufficient air changes to remove potentially infectious particles.
- When cleaning the vehicle, wear a disposable gown, gloves and eye protection. Doors should also remain open when cleaning the vehicle.
- Use hospital grade cleaners that are appropriate for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19).
- Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE and regulated medical waste.



University Hospitals

EMS Training & Disaster Preparedness Institute

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

FEVER



BREATHING DIFFICULTY



COUGH



If these symptoms are present, ask the following questions:

Have you travelled from China, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Italy, or South Korea in the 14 days before your illness started?

OR

Have you been in contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19 in the 14 days before your illness started?

If the answer to these questions is YES and Symptoms are present, there is a concern for possible COVID-19

- Provide patient with a surgical mask (**not N95**)
- Crew members should wear N95 mask, Gloves, Eye Protection
- Provide appropriate care regardless of suspicion of infection

ALERT

Notify the receiving healthcare facility that the patient has an exposure history and signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 so that appropriate infection control precautions may be taken prior to patient arrival.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Family members and contacts of the patient should **NOT** ride in the ambulance during transport.

Keep pass through doors and windows tightly shut during transport.

Utilize the supplemental recirculating ventilation unit, if available, in patient compartment.

Follow routine procedures for patient transfers: Wheel the patient directly from the ambulance to an Airborne Infection Isolation Room.

CDC Resource Information:

www.bit.ly/covid19ems

