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Director

Kenneth Bird, MD, MPH
Health Officer

EMS Administrative Directive No. 2020-002 (**Updated Information**)

Date: February 28, 2020

To: Merced County ALS and BLS EMS Providers

From: Ajinder Singh, MD, CPE
EMS Medical Director

James Clark, MICP, MHOAC
EMS Administrator

Subject: **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak**

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that aren't new, this is a new type of coronavirus and we are still learning about it. However, the health risk to the general public in California remains low.

There is no evidence of sustained person-to-person transmission of the virus in in the United States. The one instance of person-to-person transmission confirmed in California, was with a close household contact.

There are no confirmed cases in Merced County

EMS providers/First Responders should determine if a patient in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset has a history of:

- 1) Travel to China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea *OR*
Had close contact** with a person known to have COVID-19

AND

- 2) A fever **or** lower respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)

** Close contact is defined as; a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; or b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on)

EMS providers/First Responders should take the following precautions if a patient meets the above criteria:

- Limit the number of responders that have close contact with patient
- Have the patient wear a facemask
- Use standard, contact, droplet and airborne precautions with eye protection
 - Gloves, gown, and eye protection (goggles or face shield)
- Providers should use a fit-tested N-95 or P-100 mask
- Contact the receiving hospital (transporting unit) Follow their instructions for receiving the patient.
- Contact the on-call EMS Agency staff member (transport or AMA)
- Use standard decontamination procedures after the call is completed
- CDC Healthcare Professional Preparedness Checklist has been attached

If you have any questions M-F 8AM-5PM, please contact Jim Clark, Emergency Medical Services Administrator, at (209) 381-1250. For after-hours emergency inquiries, please contact EMS Duty Officer at 209-725-7011.

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Healthcare Professional Preparedness Checklist For Transport and Arrival of Patients With Confirmed or Possible COVID-19



Front-line healthcare personnel in the United States should be prepared to evaluate patients for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The following checklist highlights key steps for healthcare personnel in preparation for transport and arrival of patients with confirmed or possible COVID-19.

Stay up to date on the latest information about signs and symptoms, diagnostic testing, and case definitions for [coronavirus disease 2019](#).

Review your infection prevention and control policies and CDC [infection control recommendations for COVID-19](#) for:

- Assessment and triage of patients with acute respiratory symptoms
- Patient placement
- Implementation of Standard, Contact, and Airborne Precautions, including the use of eye protection
- Visitor management and exclusion
- Source control measures for patients (e.g., put facemask on suspect patients)
- Requirements for performing aerosol generating procedures
- Be alert for patients who meet the [persons under investigation \(PUI\)](#) definition
- Know how to report a potential COVID-19 case or exposure to facility infection control leads and public health officials.
- Know who, when, and how to seek evaluation by occupational health following an unprotected exposure (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE) to a suspected or confirmed [coronavirus disease 2019](#) patient.
- Remain at home, and notify occupational health services, if you are ill.
- Know how to contact and receive information from your state or local public health agency.