



## **KCEMS COVID-19 Update**

**March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 12:00**

### **PSAP & EMD Screening Process:**

Patient screenings will continue to occur as part of the normal EMD call taking process.

Effective Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the travel question will be removed. Positive screens will be considered for all patients who meet the following criteria:

- Complains of respiratory systems or a cough

**AND**

- Complains of a fever

If you are called to these patients, please ensure that you have the correct level of PPE available and have donned it prior to making contact with the patient or entering the location.

### **PPE Recommendations:**

Please continue to follow the current CDC recommendations to protect yourselves and your family.

### **Summary of Key Changes for the EMS Guidance: (March 10, 2020)**

- Updated PPE recommendations for the care of patients with known or suspected COVID-19:
  - (*simple*) Facemasks are an acceptable alternative until the supply chain is restored. Respirators (*N-95's*) should be prioritized for procedures that are likely to generate respiratory aerosols, which would pose the highest exposure risk to HCP (*such as nebulizer treatments, CPAP/BiPAP, BVM, & intubations*)
  - Eye protection, gown, and gloves continue to be recommended.
    - If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for aerosol-generating procedures, care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, and high-contact patient care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of pathogens to the hands and clothing of HCP.
  - When the supply chain is restored, fit-tested EMS clinicians should return to use of respirators for patients with known or suspected COVID-19.
- Updated guidance about recommended EPA-registered disinfectants to include reference to a list now posted on the EPA website.

Please remember that PPE levels are in short supply, with significant difficulty in securing replacement supplies, so it is important for providers to use only the level that is necessary. KCEMS is working with local Emergency Management departments and the Region 6 Healthcare Coalition in an attempt to secure additional supplies, however, please continue to be diligent with your decisions.



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### **Droplet Precautions:**

Based on the requests from all healthcare systems in our MCA, patients who are receiving nebulized treatments or CPAP need to follow these procedures:

- Continue to treat patients as our current protocols and procedures outline
- Contact the receiving facility by both EMTrack **and** MedCom as early as possible to advise that they are receiving a patient with this treatment in place.
- Discontinue all **nebulized treatments** prior to entering the facility & bring equipment with the patient so the treatment can be continued once they reach their room assignment.
- As the EMS agency is arriving at all healthcare systems with a patient on **CPAP**, the EMS crew must contact the ED by phone or radio. This is to ensure that staff at the facility is ready and prepared in the receiving room prior to exiting the vehicle with the patient. When the facility is prepared, exit the vehicle, discontinue the CPAP and place a NRB on the patient. Then go directly to the receiving room.
  - Please be prepared in the event that the patient suffers a further reduction in their respiratory to support the patient during the transfer of care, including have a BVM available.
  - Please do not open any equipment until it is necessary to be used to prevent unnecessary wasting.

### **Hospital Notifications:**

With the adoption of the Emergency System protocol on Friday, March, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 all patients that screen positive for COVID-19 must have the following occur:

- An EMTrack notification as soon as possible to the receiving healthcare system location.
- AND**
- Either a radio or phone report called directly to the receiving healthcare system location.

### **Hospital Visitations:**

In response to Governor Whitmer's executive order, starting Monday March 16, visitors will be restricted at all healthcare locations (hospitals, outpatient locations and long-term care facilities) except in special circumstances. Special circumstances allow for only one approved visitor for pediatric, maternity, end-of-life or critically ill patients, and patients undergoing surgery.

Please make sure that you are communicating this to your patients and their family & friends prior to transporting so they are not surprised when they arrive at the ED.



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### ***Patient Follow-ups:***

All health systems will notify KCEMS and the impacted Life Support Agencies if there are any confirmed positive COVID-19 patient that is transported by EMS to speed up the notification process.

Please remember that there is a delay from the time the testing is authorized by the State until the results are returned. This may take 24 hours or more.

The best way to limit your exposure is to wear PPE as directed in the current recommendations and to decontaminated vehicles between patients as directed.

### ***Augmented Responses***

Effective Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 if there is a Priority response to a positive screened patient 1<sup>st</sup> responders will not be sent to the location unless there will be more than a 30 minute delay in an ambulance responding.

Please note that this change only affects patients that screen positive. All other responses are not affected and should receive the same level of response that normally occurs.

This is also patient specific and should not be considered for entire locations or facilities.

### ***Agency Leadership PPE Information:***

#### ***Supplies:***

Region 6 currently has simple face masks available to departments that have documented needs. If your Life Support Agency is in need of supplies please follow this link and request the needed supplies just in case supplies become available  
<https://www.miregion6.org/emergencyequipmentrequestform.html>

#### ***Fit Testing Requirements:***

On Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released **Temporary Enforcement Guidance - Healthcare Respiratory Protection Annual Fit-Testing for N95 Filtering Facepieces During the COVID-19 Outbreak**. The guidance can be found here: <https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-03-14/temporary-enforcement-guidance-healthcare-respiratory-protection-annual-fit>



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A fit test is required for anyone wearing a respirator to protect against COVID-19. Annual fit test can be temporarily suspended if employee has already been fit tested to that respirator.

### **See relevant bullets from memo below:**

- Perform initial fit tests for each HCP with the same model, style, and size respirator that the worker will be required to wear for protection against COVID-19 (initial fit testing is essential to determine if the respirator properly fits the worker and is capable of providing the expected level of protection);
- Inform workers that the employer is temporarily suspending the annual fit testing of N95 filtering facepiece respirators to preserve and prioritize the supply of respirators for use in situations where they are required to be worn.

### **Staff Screening:**

Healthcare systems are beginning to screen staff daily for signs & symptoms (respiratory S&S with a cough and fever) prior to admitting them into the facility. Please continue to monitor your organization and consider doing so at your organization as this event continues to evolve.

### **Current Statistics:**

<b>Kent County Data</b>	
<i>Updated March 16, 2020</i>	
<b>Tests Submitted</b>	89
<b>Negative Tests</b>	26
<b>Pending Tests</b>	58
<b>Positive Tests</b>	5

<b>Ottawa County Statistics</b>	
<b>(as of 03/15/20)</b>	
Tests submitted to Michigan Bureau of Labs through OCDPH*	20
Negative for COVID-19	9
<b>Positive for COVID-19</b>	<b>1</b>

\*as supplied by the local Health Departments on their website at 1200 on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020



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### **Additional Information:**

KCEMS will be planning on updating any information daily at 1600. If your agency has any information, or questions that you would like answered please submit them to us before 1500 each day for inclusion in the update.

We would also suggest that you regularly check the following locations to keep abreast of future developments:

CDC Coronavirus (general information): click [here](#)

MDHHS COVID-19 website: click [here](#)

Kent County Health Department COVID-19 website: click [here](#)

Ottawa County Health Department: click [here](#)

John Hopkins worldwide status report: click [here](#)