

Effective: 03/20/2020

Expiration: N/A

Replaces Medical Directive #: 2003001

Subject: COVID-19 Pandemic - Identification and PPE

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Given the current reports of community transmission in DFW, providers should wear a baseline level of PPE when responding to all emergent and non-emergent calls. The determination of this baseline will be agency dependent, but should at a minimum include a surgical mask and gloves.

If you are evaluating a patient with symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing, fever), first maintain at least 6-feet of separation, if possible. Then, place the patient in a surgical mask, followed by the “Identify, Isolate, Inform” Process:

### Identify

All patients with signs and symptoms of lower respiratory illness should be treated as if they are currently infected with COVID-19. Further, there may be patients who have recently traveled to areas with more wide spread community transmission, which should significantly raise the clinical suspicion of COVID-19. The same is true for patients who have been in close contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19

Remember that fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications. Further, many patients with COVID-19 do not initially present with fever.

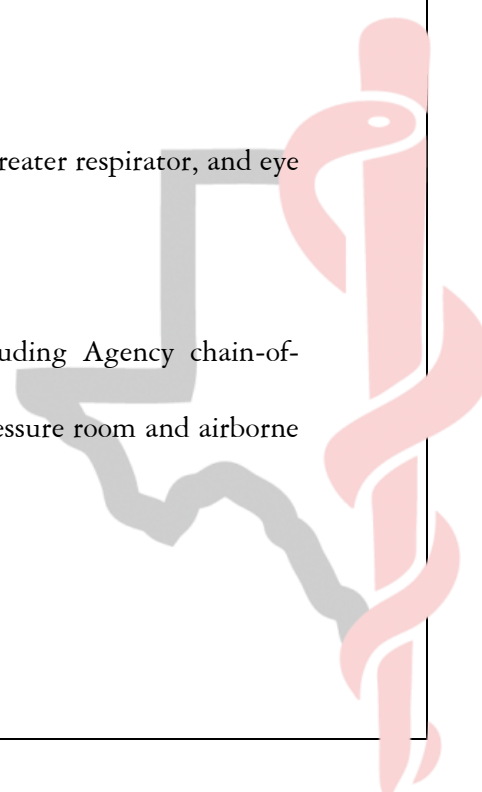
For patients identified through the 911 call-taking process, begin with below Isolation instructions while confirming screening questions.

### Isolate

- Ensure patient continues to wear surgical mask
- Don airborne precaution PPE: gloves, fluid-resistant gown, N-95 or greater respirator, and eye protection

### Inform

- Follow Agency institutional policy on notification for HCID, including Agency chain-of-command
- Notify destination receiving facility of a patient requiring negative pressure room and airborne precautions



- For patients refusing treatment or transport, contact OLPG
- Plan for decontamination of personnel, equipment, and ambulance

Further background information is available at the CDC's Health Advisory Network:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me directly.



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