

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

B-36 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Purpose:

To ensure the safety of EMS Providers and personnel while preparing for, responding to, and transporting patients with a positive Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) screening.

1. SIREMS participating agency management and EMS personnel should review, on a weekly basis, the most recent CDC, IDPH, and SIREMS guidance documents and releases in reference to EMS preparation and response to COVID-19.
2. SIREMS participating agency management are responsible to provide their EMS personnel with the necessary training for the correct donning and doffing of the recommended PPE.
3. Guidelines for responding to and transporting of a potential COVID-19 patient:
 - If the patient screens positive by:
 - Reporting they have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
 - Currently under quarantine or isolation due to exposure or testing positive.
 - Presenting with the signs and symptoms related to COVID-19,
 - Cough
 - Fever
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Immediately don full PPE and limit the number of EMS personnel in contact with the patient.
 - Screening should occur before EMS personnel come within 6 feet of the symptomatic patient.
 - If additional bystanders are in close contact with the patient, they should remain on scene while a transport or shelter in place plan is arranged.
 - All current PPE recommendations from the CDC and IDPH should be followed.
 - For patients that screen negative and need no aerosolizing procedures:
 - Surgical mask
 - For patients that screen positive, including presentation of COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive, under quarantine or isolation, or have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive patient:
 - N-95 mask or higher level respiratory protection device
 - Eye protection
 - Gown

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- For any patient that requires an aerosol generating procedure, regardless of their COVID-19 screening or test status:
 - N-95 mask or higher level respiratory protection device
 - Eye protection
 - Gown
- If the EMS agency is unable to comply with PPE recommendations, another agency should be contacted.
- Unless there is a direct contraindication, immediately place a surgical mask on the patient to reduce the aerosolization of droplets.
- Transport to the appropriate hospital per protocol.
- Make early contact with the receiving facility and coordinate the procedure for unloading and receiving the patient.
- The ambulance and equipment need to be cleaned and disinfected per CDC, IDPH, and manufacturer recommendations.