Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transporting Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Patients

EMS should assume each patient may be COVID-19 positive. If information about potential for COVID-19 has not been provided by the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), EMS clinicians should exercise appropriate precautions when responding to any patient with signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection. Initial assessment should begin from a distance of at least 6 feet from the patient, if possible.

**Suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients**

- Apply COVID-19 Body Substance Isolation (BSI):
  - N-95 or surgical mask
  - Gloves & gown
  - Face shield or goggles
- Provide patient with surgical mask unless advanced airway skills are needed
- Notify hospital/healthcare facility of suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patient transport
- Transport patient & transfer care to healthcare facility. Leave rear doors open to allow for sufficient air exchanges.
- Decontaminate vehicle and equipment while wearing new full PPE*
- Vehicle and crew can return to service
- Crews should self-monitor for symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath) for 14 days

*Decontamination does not require a N95 respirator, instead a face shield or facemask and goggles are sufficient.

**Contact with patient prior to knowing COVID-19 status**

- Once COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed:
  - If already wearing gloves, discard, perform hand hygiene, and apply new pair
  - Apply COVID-19 BSI
- Provide patient with surgical mask unless advanced airway skills are needed
- Notify hospital/healthcare facility of suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patient transport
- Transport patient & transfer care to healthcare facility. Leave rear doors open to allow for sufficient air exchanges.
- Decontaminate vehicle and equipment while wearing new full PPE*
- Vehicle can return to service
- For unprotected exposure to a confirmed or possible COVID-19 patient, contact your occupational health program immediately. If you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, or difficulty breathing), do not report to work.

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