

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

Infection Control and PPE Guidance

Signs & Symptoms of COVID-19: Any patient with respiratory symptoms (cough, congestion, body aches, shortness of breath, or sore throat) with or without fever, **regardless of travel history**

Arrival to Patient	<input type="checkbox"/> Perform an initial assessment at a minimum of 6 feet from the patient <input type="checkbox"/> Limit the number of EMS clinicians and equipment within 6 feet of the patient <input type="checkbox"/> Place a simple facemask (NOT N-95) on the patient <input type="checkbox"/> EMS clinicians should put on (don) personal protective equipment including: gown, gloves, eye protection, and a simple facemask <input type="checkbox"/> IF THE PATIENT IS IN CARDIAC ARREST, N-95 respirators, not facemasks, should be donned by each EMS clinician treating the patient
Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> CPAP and nebulized medications should be withheld except for patients experiencing severe distress <input type="checkbox"/> If respiratory procedures performed, use an N-95 respirator instead of a simple facemask <input type="checkbox"/> Cover the respiratory device (NRB, nasal cannula, etc.) with a simple facemask <input type="checkbox"/> Minimize intranasal administration of medications <input type="checkbox"/> Minimize endotracheal intubation and instead utilize supraglottic airways (e.g. LMA or King LT) whenever possible
Transport	<input type="checkbox"/> Limit the number of EMS clinicians in the patient compartment <input type="checkbox"/> Family members and other contacts of patients with possible COVID-19 should not ride in the transport vehicle, if possible. If riding in the transport vehicle, they should wear a facemask <input type="checkbox"/> Activate the patient compartment's exhaust fan, and ensure the ventilation system of the ambulance is on non-recirculating mode
Arrival at ED	<input type="checkbox"/> Upon arrival, instruct the family members or other contacts of the patients with possible COVID-19 to remain outside the hospital and await further instruction from the hospital staff. Do not allow them to accompany the EMS team through the ED entrance <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off nebulizers and CPAP before entering the hospital if patient condition allows (patient not in severe respiratory distress) <input type="checkbox"/> Move the patient to the hospital bed, transfer the patient, then while still in PPE, promptly return the stretcher to the ambulance without touching anything else along the way
Returning to Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Leave all doors of the ambulance open to allow for air exchanges prior to gross decontamination <input type="checkbox"/> Decontaminate ambulance according to established policies and procedures. Don PPE if PPE was removed after patient transfer to the ED <input type="checkbox"/> Remove (doff) PPE and perform hand hygiene

EMS Clinician N-95 Critical Shortage Usage Tool	
Are respiratory procedures being performed OR is the patient in cardiac arrest?	Facemask or Respirator Determination
YES	N-95*
NO	Simple facemask
*IF N-95 RESPIRATORS ARE COMPLETELY UNAVAILABLE, SIMPLE FACEMASKS MAY BE USED AS AN ALTERNATIVE	



Revised March 25, 2020