



ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES
AGENCY

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Emergency Medical Services District

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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 13, 2020

To: Alameda County Fire Departments
Falck Alameda County
Alameda County Permitted Ambulance Transport Providers

Re: Update on management of possible COVID-19 patients

From: Dr. Karl Sporer, Alameda County EMS Medical Director

This memo is to provide an update for the current guidance on managing exposure risk from COVID-19. This memo does not replace the guidance on recommended actions to minimize exposure, including recommended PPE.

- EMS personnel should exercise appropriate precautions when responding to any patient with signs or symptoms of respiratory infection.
 - If possible, initial assessment should occur from a distance of at least six (6) feet from the patient
 - Place a surgical mask on the patient to contain droplets
 - Involve the fewest EMS personnel required to minimize possible exposures
 - EMS personnel who will directly care for a patient, or who will be in the compartment with the patient, should follow standard, contact and airborne precautions. Recommended PPE includes:
 - A single pair of disposable patient examination gloves
 - Disposable isolation gown.

- Respiratory protection (surgical facemasks are an acceptable alternative when N-95 or higher-level respirators are unavailable)
- Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face)
- Respiratory aerosol-generating procedures should be minimized as much as clinically possible. This includes nebulized medication, CPAP, Bag Valve Mask, and advanced airways. If an advanced airway is required, it is suggested that the lGel be used preferentially over an endotracheal tube.
- If a respiratory aerosol-generating procedure cannot be avoided, EMS personnel treating the patient must use P-100 preferably or an N95 filtering face piece respirators (FFRs) (commonly known as N95 respirators). The available supply of N95 FFRs and P-100s, if limited, should be prioritized for these procedures.
- During transport, restrict the number of providers in the patient compartment to only essential personnel to minimize possible exposures.
- 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.
- Notify the receiving hospital of the situation and provide an appropriate patient care report as soon as possible.