



ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY

Colleen Chawla, HCSA Director

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rosa Ramos, ACRECC
Darrell Lee, Oakland Fire Department

FROM: Dr. Karl Sporer, EMS Medical Director

DATE: March 5, 2020

RE: **Modification of Dispatch Questioning COVID-19**

Due to the geographical spread of COVID-19, in concert with guidance from the CDC and the Association of Bay Area Health Officials (ABAHO), please modify your dispatcher scripting and/or the Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance Tool (EIDS) in your CAD to include screening for **recent travel within the last 14 days to China, Iran, South Korea, Italy and/or Japan.**

The screening should continue to **ask about patient symptoms to include the presence of fever, chills, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent cough, or nasal congestion (blocked nose).**

All patients that identified as **Sick Patients (MPDS Card 26) or Breathing Problems (MPDS Card 6) through the EMD process shall be screened utilizing this line of questioning.**

The **responding crews will be notified of any positive travel or symptom screening patient** via detailed information about travel history and symptoms on their mobile data terminal. In addition, the **dispatch center will verbally convey over the radio to the responding crews "Please check your MDT for additional information"**.

These modifications need to be made as soon as possible in order to align with the most current information available, provide the greatest opportunity to warn our providers so they can exercise the proper PPE and precautions, as well as maintain consistency within our region.

Please notify me as soon as the changes are implemented.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Sporer', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Karl Sporer
Alameda County EMS
Medical Director

CC: EMS Section
Alameda County Fire Chiefs