

EMS Management and Transport Considerations: COVID-19 (coronavirus)

If Dispatch notifies you of potential coronavirus patient, as part of your scene size-up consider conducting initial interview from six feet or greater.

1. If the patient exhibits symptoms of an acute febrile* and/or lower respiratory infection (fever, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, cough):
 - a. Place a surgical mask on the patient AND
 - b. Obtain a detailed travel history to China or other areas with confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the past 14 days of symptom onset or close contact** with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient or someone under investigation for COVID-19.
2. If there is a history consistent with concern for potential COVID-19, initiate standard contact and airborne precautions and eye protection for EMS personnel.
 - a. Standard Precautions: perform hand hygiene, then put on clean, non-sterile gloves. Change gloves if they become torn or heavily soiled. Put on a clean disposable gown. Change the gown if it become soiled.
 - b. Airborne Precautions: use respiratory protection (i.e., a respirator) that is at least as protective as a fit-tested NIOSH-certified disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirator.
 - c. Eye protection: put on eye protection (i.e., goggles, a disposable face shield that covers the front and side of the face)



3. Notify the receiving hospital (according to local protocol) of potential COVID-19 patient as soon as possible to allow for emergency department preparation.
4. Use caution with aerosol generating procedures.
5. Properly doff and dispose of PPE according to protocol.
6. Cleaning and disinfection using EPA registered disinfectants with known effectiveness against human coronavirus.
7. Waste management per policy for medical waste (red bag).

*Fever may not be present in some patients, may be subjective or confirmed.

**Close contact is defined as being within about 6 feet, or within the same room or care area, of a patient with confirmed COVID-19 without wearing PPE for a prolonged period; close contact can include caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing OR having direct contact with COVID-19 infected secretions (i.e., being coughed on).

The list of affected countries may change over time and can be confirmed at the CDC site:

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)