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## MEMORANDUM

To: Napa County EMS System	From: Karen Relucio, MD, Public Health Director/Health Officer Zita Konik, MD, EMS Medical Director Shaun Vincent, Interim EMS Administrator
Date: April 10, 2020	Re: COVID-19 Pandemic

As of April 10, 2020

Novel Coronavirus, Pandemic – 2019-2020

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic **UPDATE 5**

This guidance document is released in cooperation with the Napa County Public Health. The intent is to provide updated guidance and information regarding the management of suspected Novel Coronavirus cases within the Napa County EMS System.

There are four types of coronaviruses that commonly circulate and cause cold symptom and usually a mild illness for this time of year. However, this is a new (or novel) virus that is causing more severe illness and deaths in some people who have been infected. As of 9 AM PST April 10, 2020, there have been more than 1.5 million confirmed cases and more than 90,000 deaths due to COVID-19 worldwide. The California EMS Authority (EMSA) has recommended EMS provider agencies and systems access the following link for updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

At this time, EMSA recommends using standard airborne, contact, and droplet precautions for anyone with suspected flu-like or respiratory complaint. Napa County EMS and Napa County Public Health support the guidance as appropriate for the EMS System. The following link can be referenced for COVID-19 PPE recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for EMS Personnel: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html#recommended-ppe>

Napa County EMS recognizes that the current Shelter-At-Home Order, issued by the Napa County Health Officer on March 18, 2020 and expanded on April 3, 2020 creates challenges for EMS personnel and providers. Napa County EMS, in collaboration with Napa County Public Health have established this guidance to help inform and protect our frontline workforce. Please understand that the COVID-19 response is rapidly evolving and guidance changes frequently.



Napa County EMS recommends that all providers continue to reference CDC guidance and recommendation on PPE and response for the most up to date information.

As of April 10, 2020, Napa County EMS is asking partners to follow the below guidance for Certification/Accreditation, Dispatch, Treatment, Response/Patient Contact, Long-Term Care Facilities, Clinical Treatment, and Exposure/Return to Work.

**CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION:** Consistent with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-39-20, the CA EMS Authority is waiving recertification requirements for EMS personnel, to ensure the continued operation of emergency medical services in CA. All EMTs and paramedic with licenses or certifications expiring in March, April, May, or June of 2020 shall have their license or certification expiration dates extended until July 31, 2020.

**DISPATCH:** Napa Central Dispatch and the St. Helena ECC are using the emerging infectious disease screening (EIDS) tool. Dispatchers have been screening 9-1-1 calls for suspect cases and flag the incident to ensure responders have advanced notification to take universal precautions before coming into contact with a possible PUI.

In addition to our screening tools for emergency medical dispatch, we are flagging the premise history for all isolation orders issued by our Local Health Officer.

**RESPONSE/PATIENT CONTACT:** Napa County EMS is monitoring CDC guidance for EMS response. We are currently, recommending that providers take measures to reduce potential exposure for EMS responders and preserve PPE as much as possible. We are recommending that when appropriate and when a patient is able to self-extricate from their home, response agencies should begin patient assessment while maintaining a six foot distance. This allows responders a safe distancing and eliminates the full PPE requirement. A single individual from response agencies, if deemed appropriate, can don full PPE. We also recommends that if a patient is unable to self-extricate, only one responder should enter to assess the patient. Agencies are not to delay emergent patient care or modify necessary emergent interventions.

We are asking all agencies to seriously consider the opportunity to practice social distancing when possible to protect frontline medical personnel and preserve PPE whenever reasonable and practical.

**LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES:** Institute a single crew member, or "scout" procedure to determine the nature of the EMS contact and the appropriate level of crew PPE. All responders not involved in patient care should remain outside of the facility in radio contact with the scout medic. Limit the number of personnel who enter congregate living facilities for both the protection of the residents of the facility and EMS personnel.

**TREATMENT:** Napa County EMS is directing medical responders to minimize the use of BLS BVM, endotracheal intubation, CPAP, and nebulized treatments as much as possible. All personnel in close contact with patients in cardiac arrest should don full PPE when performing manual or mechanical compressions, assisting with airway management, and/or administering medications.



- Airway Management in Cardiac Arrest: Avoid Bag Valve Mask Ventilations whenever possible. Instead, place a patient on 15 LPM O<sub>2</sub> by non-rebreather mask. Place a surgical mask over the non-rebreather mask to minimize the spread of possible viral particles. After three cycles of CPR, ALS providers should insert King Tube when available.
  - The use of King Tube over endotracheal intubation is encouraged whenever possible. This will help limit exposure to first responders.
  - If ventilations are assisted with BVM or King Tube use a viral or HEPA filter, if available, to decrease the amount of aerosolized viral particulates.
- CPAP: Napa County EMS recommends reserving CPAP for patients only in extremis. If CPAP is needed, transport providers shall contact the receiving facility upon arrival. Receiving facilities will evaluate the patient in the ambulance bay to determine if discontinuing CPAP is appropriate during patient transfer.
- Nebulized Treatments: Napa County EMS recommends reserving nebulized treatments for patients only in extremis. Only asthmatic patients will likely benefit from albuterol and may use own inhaler. Adults: 5 puffs (with spacer preferred). Children <12 years old: 2 puffs (with spacer preferred). Repeat q 15 min as needed. If a nebulized treatment is needed, transport providers shall contact the receiving facility upon arrival. If a nebulizer treatment is initiated, discontinue the therapy prior to entering emergency departments.

**EXPOSURE/RETURN TO WORK:** Napa County EMS is following CDC recommendation and guidance for healthcare workers and return to work. If a responder is asymptomatic they are cleared to work. If a responder develops symptoms consistent of COVID-19, responders shall follow internal protocol for reporting and self-monitoring/quarantine. Responders should seek medical evaluation by a physician to determine if COVID-19 testing is appropriate. Continue to use CDC recommended strategies for identifying individuals who may return to work.

Continue to follow guidelines established in the Napa County EMS Memorandum dated March 24, 2020 for procedures related to test-based and non-test-based procedures for return to work.

**RESPONDERS EXPOSED TO A PATIENT WITH SYMPTOMS CONSISTENT WITH COVID-19:**

- **Contact your supervisor who will contact the Napa County EMS Duty Officer and follow [Napa County EMS Administrative Policy #402](#) for all possible Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) patients.**
- Use decontamination procedures consistent with CDC guidance after the call is completed.

Review: [Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points \(PSAPs\) for COVID-19 in the United States.](#)

For further questions, you can contact the EMS Agency or the EMS Duty Officer.



April 10, 2020  
COVID-19

**PATIENT REFUSAL AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE & RELEASE AT SCENE:** To meet the demand of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have added language to Administrative Policy 114 to address releasing patients at scene exhibiting signs and symptoms of respiratory illness consistent with COVID-19. In addition to the policy update, we are distributing a COVID-19 Quick Reference Guide, a list of local Urgent Cares to hand to patients that do not have a primary care physician, and a COVID-19 RAS Checklist. We are putting these out for a one week written public comment period for a system-wide review. In addition to written comment, the EMS Agency will keep this policy on the agenda for discussion on our Monday, Wednesday and Friday conference addressing the COVID-19 response efforts. Please have all comments into the Napa County EMS Agency by close of business, Friday, April 17, 2020. Once we have finalized this policy, the quick reference guide, and the checklist, we will jointly design the implementation plan with leadership from partner agencies.

