	<b>TRAVIS COUNTY ESD #5 MANCHACA FIRE RESCUE Department Directive</b>	<b>D2020-002</b>
		Effective: 3/15/2020
	<b>COVID-19 Status Update</b>	Rescinds:
		From: C. Barron

In an effort to provide an organized dissemination of information about the COVID-19 pandemic, the information below is being provided as a recap of various notices and emails from the past couple of weeks. There is also some new information outlined below as well as additional measures to protect our community and our responders.

**CREW PROTECTION MEASURES:**

**Crew Temperature Monitoring:** All on duty personnel shall check their temperature when coming on duty and every 12 hours thereafter while on duty. If a temperature of 100.4 or higher is recorded, the member will be immediately placed off duty and should isolate themselves from other crew members. They should contact their doctor for further diagnosis and testing.

**Station/Apparatus Disinfection:** Each evening, the on duty crew shall clean and disinfect commonly contacted surfaces in the station and on the apparatus. Examples of surfaces to address include, but are not limited to:

- Door knobs, handles, latches
- Counter and table surfaces in kitchens, bathrooms, classroom, bedrooms, offices, etc.
- Toilets, sinks, soap dispensers
- Computer keyboards and mouse, tablet computer surfaces, MDCs
- Station phones and personal cell phones
- Handheld radios, collar mics, and mobile radio mics
- Workout equipment

**Personal Hygiene:** Wash hands regularly, use sanitizer when handwashing is not possible; cover your mouth with hands or the crook of your elbow when sneezing or coughing. Avoid touching your face and any surface that you don't need to touch. Wash hands immediately after every call. Consider keeping your duty footwear in the truck bay and having shoes or sandals that are only worn in the crew quarters.

**PPE:** Track use of PPE and report items used each shift to Chief Barron.

- High Risk Patients (ILI): N95 mask, gown, gloves, eye protection
- Any medical patient not wearing a mask: responders should wear a mask, goggles, and gloves
- If patient is wearing a mask: responders to wear gloves and mask
- Ideally, any patient presenting with ILI or COVID suspicion/confirmation should wear a mask if it can be tolerated
- Doff PPE and place disposable PPE in a trash bag before getting in the apparatus. Do not carry contaminated PPE in the apparatus cab. Personnel should wash hands upon return to the station and

**SOCIAL DISTANCING and LIMITING ACCESS**

**Station:** As responders, we need to remain healthy to be available to our public. We want to limit potential spreading of COVID-19 to the public or from the public to our responders by unnecessary contact. Effective immediately, the following measures are in effect:

- Public Education and Public Relations events are cancelled (school visits, tours, Coffee with the Chief, Hop into Spring)
- Use of the classroom by outside groups (meetings/parties, etc) will be cancelled and new reservations will not be accepted till further notice

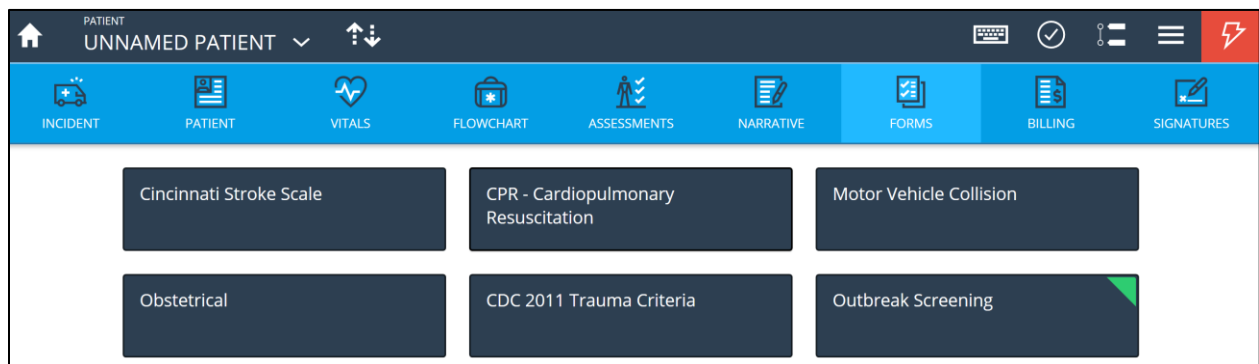
- The station should remain secured to control public access to the station. Visitors should not be admitted beyond the front lobby
- Family and friends should not visit or linger at the station any longer than necessary to deliver food, clothing, or other needs for the on duty member. Stopping by for general visits should not occur.
- Multi-company training events will be suspended until further notice. AFD is also following this practice and Station 36 has cancelled their regular Tuesday drills at 501. The current exception is to move forward with the upcoming live fire training events, however; additional personnel will not be allowed to attend.
- Follow social distancing or personal space whenever possible (6 feet of space between persons). This includes at the station.

**Response:** Currently, changes are being made to how resources are dispatched to medical calls. Expect that MFR will not necessarily be dispatched to every medical call in the district. When responding to medical calls, the initial patient impression should be from 6 feet away. Only commit the responders needed to deliver care within 6 feet of a patient.

- **COVID-19 Alert:** If a 911 caller is identified as a COVID-19 Alert, a message will appear in the call notes for that incident. Make sure proper PPE is donned and only necessary contact is made with the patient. For priority 1 and 2 patients, the fire resource will continue its response. For lower priority incidents, the fire units should be cancelled.
- **Contacting the CA-MOC:** If arriving first at a COVID-19 Alert patient, make contact with the Capital Area Medical Operations Center (CA-MOC) by calling one of these numbers to be placed on a conference call:
  - Conference Bridge: 737-210-9470
  - AFD Dispatch: 512-974-0400
  - EMS Dispatch: 512-978-0400

A group decision will be made as to transport the patient. The preference is to not transport a COVID-19 patient if patient condition permits.

- **Nursing and similar facilities:** The minimum level of PPE for any response to a nursing or similar facility is gloves, mask, and eye protection due to the vulnerable nature of these populations.
- **Incident documentation:** A new form has been activated on our ePCR titled “Outbreak Screening”. If you experience a COVID-19 Alert patient or other patient that meets suspicion for COVID-19, this form should be completed. Additionally, there are now 3 different COVID-19 dispositions under the Primary and Secondary Impression fields in the ePCR (COVID-19 – Confirmed by testing, COVID-19 – Exposed to confirmed patient, and COVID-19 – Suspected – no know exposure). The form is required if a COVID impression is listed but there is an option for ‘UTO’ (Unable to Obtain) or to select ‘None’ under symptoms if crews were unable to obtain the needed data.



## **TRANSMISSION, SIGNS and SYMPTOMS**

**Transmission:** Human coronaviruses are most commonly spread from an infected symptomatic or mildly symptomatic person to others through:

- Droplets produced by coughing and sneezing (it is NOT an airborne disease)
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching objects or surfaces with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands
- Rarely, fecal contamination

**Signs and Symptoms:** Common human coronaviruses usually present as mild to moderate upper-respiratory-tract illnesses, such as the common cold. These illnesses usually only last for a short time; symptoms may include:

- Runny nose
- Headache
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Fever
- A general feeling of being unwell

Human coronaviruses can sometimes cause lower-respiratory-tract illnesses, such as pneumonia or bronchitis. This is more common in people with cardiopulmonary disease, people with weakened or compromised immune systems, infants and older adults.

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## **EXPOSURE and ISOLATION**

Should an exposure occur to a COVID-19 source, MFR will coordinate with the ATCEOC and Austin Public Health to identify proper isolation measures and locations. Plans are under development to address these issues.