

	TRAVIS COUNTY ESD #5 MANCHACA FIRE RESCUE Department Directive	D2020-003
		Effective: 3/18/2020
	COVID-19 Status Update 2	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.

PPE Use: We want to ensure that our responders are wearing the appropriate PPE for the situation. However, we also need to understand that our disposable PPE supplies are a limited resource and we need to make sure we are using it appropriately and wisely.

- Limit the number of personnel making patient contact and operating within 6 feet of the patient to only those needed to deliver care. Other responders should be outside the 6-foot perimeter or outside the room where the patient is located. Only those around the patient need full PPE and a member wearing a mask that does not make patient contact can reuse their mask on a subsequent call.

Personal Hygiene: All crew members should wash their hands upon return to station on every occasion (runs, training, store trips, etc.). Even if wipes or alcohol-based sanitizers are used on scene, all personnel should wash hands once back in station – it is still the best measure to reduce spread.

Social Distancing: Crew members should be practicing social distancing whenever possible on duty. We are not accepting visitors at the station except for legitimate business needs and for emergency events. This applies to families and friends as well.

Off Duty Practices: We ask that all members continue to practice good personal hygiene and social distancing practices off duty as well. This serves to protect our family and friends for the inherent risk associated with our work as well as to protect the membership of this department from potential exposures that could reduce our effectiveness. Remember, if you become ill do not come to work. If you experience a fever, you must be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to work.

Operational Changes: Here are some changes being enacted that will have an effect on staffing and response.

- **No 5th person staffing:** Effective immediately, we will not operate with 5-person staffing. The desire is to reduce any unnecessary exposure to personnel that we may need in the future to help maintain minimum staffing levels. We will study the need for additional staffing adjustments depending on how the department is impacted.
- **Possibility of Staging at some medical calls:** On 3/17/20 it was determined at the EOC that there was a need to moderate the response from fire based EMS to influenza like illnesses. The goal of this is to minimize responder interaction with a patient that is still being triaged by the EMS call taker. This also serves as a mechanism to limit unnecessary use of very limited PPE supplies in the region. For units that arrive prior to the ILI questions being completed they should see in their call notes a message from EMS dispatch to “stage”. Please stage until that questioning is complete and EMS Comm will direct the response needs. This is still an evolving situation and is subject to human call taker error and future change. Remember that based on your experience and look from the door, you have the ability to ask EMS dispatch if ILI questioning has been completed and if there is additional information you need to know that may have been sent to the MDC after your arrival.

- **Consider Patient Location:** The more ventilation, the lower the exposure potential. Consider, relocating patients outside if practical, or to a larger room within a structure (once again, when practical).
- **APD at Collisions:** APD advises that they will not send an officer to a collision that has no injuries and all of the vehicles are drivable. At these types of incidents, once we have addressed scene safety, we will clear the scene.