

	TRAVIS COUNTY ESD #5 MANCHACA FIRE RESCUE Department Directive	D2020-007
	Continued Protective Measures Against COVID-19	Effective: 6/30/2020
		Rescinds:
		From: C. Barron

Cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in our community with expectations that conditions will get worse before they get better. With this in mind, we want to reemphasize protective measures and expand on some previous measures to help ensure the continued safety of our members and their families.

Self-Monitoring:

All personnel shall check their temperature daily. Any temperature above 99.6 degrees should be reported and the COVID Clinical Consult Line (formerly the MOC) contacted. The contact number for the CCCL is 737-210-9740.

If a member makes contact with an individual (on or off duty) that is experiencing COVID or ILI symptoms or reports a COVID positive status they should report the contact and contact the CCCL **IF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:**

- The member was within 6 feet of the contact for more than 1 minute
- Has had direct contact with infectious secretions (coughed/sneezed on)
- There was a breach in PPE or a lack of minimal PPE (cloth mask in use instead of N95 within 6 feet of the contact, N95 became dislodged, no PPE while near a contact)

Mask Use:

All personnel shall continue to utilize cloth masks when not conducting patient contact duties. Masks shall be worn at all times when in public and when in an apparatus with other personnel. The driver of an apparatus may opt to not wear a mask only if it creates a visibility issue (fogging eyeglasses). Masks shall be worn while at the station unless one of the exceptions below applies. Being greater than 6 feet from another person while in the same room does not negate the need to wear a mask. Personnel can forgo wearing a mask if:

- They are alone in a room.
- They are working out with no one else present and the workload makes breathing through the mask too difficult
- During meals with appropriate social distancing measures in place

If a member is in a situation where they are permitted to not wear a mask, they shall have a mask with them that can be donned if needed.

Incident PPE:

Personnel involved in patient contact, in the same residential room with a patient, or in the ambulance with a patient shall wear a N95 mask, gloves, and eye protection as the minimal level of protection. Personnel should carry a N95 with them so it is immediately available should their assignment change in the course of an incident and they need to upgrade from a cloth mask.

Additional protection such as Tyvek suits and full face shields may need to be utilized for incidents with a higher degree of fluid and droplet exposure (CPR calls, respiratory treatments, etc.)

Cleaning Routine:

Crews shall continue to focus on periodic cleaning of surfaces and frequent hand washing to prevent disease spread. When hand washing is not immediately possible, alcohol hand sanitizer should be utilized.

Crews should thoroughly clean the station twice every 24 hours (morning and evening). Cleaning should include:

- Contact surfaces such as door/drawer/compartment handles
- Countertops
- Chairs/Armrests
- Keyboards, mouse, remote controls
- Light Switches
- Keys
- Radios
- Apparatus contact points (doors, handholds, compartment handles, flashlights)
- Other commonly contacted surfaces

The apparatus cab should be disinfected with the fogging machine following the directions for its use. The frontline engine should be fogged at the beginning of each shift and at other times as determined by the officer. Items such as bunker gear, radios, gas monitors, and TICs should be removed before fogging the cab. The lid to the MDC should be shut. Do not over fog the cab to the point where surfaces are wet. Equipment can be placed back in the cab after 10 minutes and sooner if needed for response to an incident.

Time, Distance, and Shielding:

This is a term often associated with radiological safety. However, this principle is how we protect ourselves from most hazards and applies to this situation as well.

1. Limit your time of exposure as much as reasonably possible
2. Maintain appropriate separation from the hazard
3. Wear the appropriate PPE for the circumstances to shield yourself from the hazard