



RICHARD SANCHEZ
DIRECTOR

LILY SIMMERING
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

STEVE THRONSON
DEPUTY AGENCY DIRECTOR
REGULATORY/MEDICAL SERVICES

TAMMI McCONNELL MSN, RN
DIVISION DIRECTOR
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

405 W FIFTH STREET, SUITE 301A
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701
TELEPHONE: 714- 834-2791
FAX: 714- 834-3125

REGULATORY/ MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

January 27, 2020

TO: Ambulance Providers
911 Providers
IFT-ALS Providers

FROM: Carl Schultz, MD 
Orange County Emergency Medical Services Medical Director

**SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR PRE-HOSPITAL PATIENT ENCOUNTERS WHERE
INFECTION WITH THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) MAY BE POSSIBLE**

The Orange County EMS Agency continues to monitor the situation both locally and nationally regarding the latest recommendations for managing pre-hospital patient encounters of those who may be infected with the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The following guidance reflects the most current practices.

SPECIFIC EMS MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORT CONSIDERATIONS:

1. If a unit is dispatched to the scene of a patient complaining of fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath, don an N-95 respirator before engaging in patient contact.
2. During initial patient questioning, if the patient exhibits symptoms of an acute fever (or has history of fever), shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, or cough:
 - a) Place a surgical mask on the patient AND
 - b) Obtain a detailed travel history to China within the past 14 days or close contact with someone under investigation for 2019-nCoV (close contact defined as being within about 6 feet, or within the same room or care area, of a patient with confirmed 2019-nCoV without wearing PPE for a prolonged period of time OR having direct contact with 2019-nCoV patient secretions).
3. If there is a history consistent with concern for potential 2019-coronavirus (2019-nCoV), initiate standard contact and airborne precautions (gloves, gown, N95 respirator) and eye protection (goggles) for EMS providers.
4. Notify the receiving hospital of potential infection as soon as possible to allow for emergency department preparation.
5. Use caution with aerosol generating procedures.
6. Properly doff and dispose of PPE according to protocol.
7. Cleaning and disinfection using EPA registered disinfectants with known effectiveness against human coronaviruses.
8. Waste management per policy for medical waste (red bag).

As the situation evolves, the EMS Agency will provide additional guidance as indicated.
(http://www.ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/epidasmt/epi/dip/prevention/novel_coronavirus).