

Berwick Fire Department



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SOP: COVID-19 "Corona virus" response procedures.

Purpose: To establish a means for all personnel to respond utilizing appropriate PPE in the event of contact with the patient population infected or presumably infected with the Covid-19 "Corona Virus"

PSAP (Public Safety Access Points) **E-911** call centers have recently updated their EMD process to include specific questions centric to the Covid-19 virus situation. These questions are meant to properly screen the caller for information that may lead to the possibility of direct contact with the aforementioned patient population. In the event of an incident dispatched for a possible case should occur, the Berwick Fire Department has prepared the following information for all providers that may be expected to respond and care for these patients.

Dispatch information: Dispatch, through EMD questioning, has come up with the following EMD call determinants and descriptors to indicate a "PUI" Person Under Investigation.

1. "Positive U-21" Symptoms with at-least one risk factor
2. "Inconclusive U-21" Unable to gather accurate or sufficient information
3. "Negative U21"- Symptoms without risk factors

**Upon notification of a positive or inconclusive U21, the responding units will make contact via cell phone to the PSAP for further information. **

Reminder: maintain a minimum number of personnel to perform appropriate patient care. Not every incident requires multiple providers (more than 1) to adequately and efficiently provide the best treatment. If any non-EMS personnel are on scene and have not been fit tested and trained for proper PPE use listed below, they **must not enter the patient care area at any time, no exceptions.**

(Positive or Inconclusive U-21)

Risk Factors include the following:

If the patient **HAS ANY** of these flu-like symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fever (>100.4)
- Body aches

5. Has been within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19

**If the patient meets the above criteria, the following PPE will be utilized without exception:

- Standard surgical mask for the patient
- N95 respirator masks for all providers
- Eye protection for all providers

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Berwick, Maine and Berwick Fire.org
Gowns and boot covers for all providers
Gloves

Negative U-21)

If the patient ***HAS ANY*** of these flu-like symptoms:

Cough
Shortness of breath
Fever (>100.4)
Body aches

But HAS NOT:

Traveled to Italy, South Korea, Iran, Japan, or China within last 14 days OR,
Been within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19

Utilize: Gloves and standard surgical mask for all providers and the patient

CDC recommendations for all first responder agencies:

Patient assessment: if PSAP call takers advise that the patient is suspected of having Covid-19, EMS clinicians should don appropriate PPE before entering the scene based on the pre-screening dispatch information.

All clinicians should exercise appropriate precautions when responding to any patient with signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection.

Initial assessment should begin 6 feet from the patient if possible. This could also include a “from the doorway” assessment and gathering information from family/friends or bystanders.

Patient contact should be minimized until a surgical mask is placed on the patient

In addition to the PPE described above, EMS clinicians should exercise caution when performing aerosol generating procedures. **(Suctioning, BVM ventilation, Intubation, nebulizer treatment, CPAP, or CPR)**

After the incident:

All non-disposable EMS equipment must be cleaned with an approved decontamination cleaner prior to placing equipment back in service.

Immediately following the incident, the PPE will be stripped from each provider outside and placed in a red biohazard bag, sealed and placed in the transporting ambulance if possible. The personnel involved will clean their hands with an approved hand sanitizer or soap prior to entering the vehicle in an effort to best reduce continued transmission as this virus has the ability to remain active on surfaces for an extended period of time.

All personnel will complete the Post Incident Exposure form which is located in the shared drive. This will be the responsibility of the OIC to assure that all crew members involved are accounted for.



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Upon the event of an exposure to personnel, the infection control plan will be implemented and followed. The infection control officer and Fire Chief will be notified.

The Maine CDC will be notified of a positive U-21 patient via cell phone by the OIC at 1(800) 821-5821