



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

To: All Officers and Members
From: Justin Wells, Assistant Chief
Through: Robert I. Garcia, Assistant Fire Chief
Subject: Patient Care Protocol Update
Date: March 6, 2020

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Sylvester Turner

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At-Large 5
Sallie Alcorn

Controller,
Chris Brown

To avoid unnecessary droplet exposure during medical procedures, the following amendment to the Patient Care Protocol and Guidelines shall be enacted:

For any patient who is a positive or suspect case for COVID-19 infection (i.e. meets screening criteria and/or OEC alerts field for "IAD/Infectious Disease Alert")

- 1) All members will withhold nebulized medications (albuterol, ipratropium bromide and epinephrine) unless the patient is in severe respiratory distress with an O2 saturation of < 90%. For all other patients, contact on-line medical control if the member feels nebulization is required for the patient.
- 2) All members will withhold endotracheal intubation unless members are unable to ventilate the patient with either the BVM or iGel. If the iGel fails, revert to the BVM preferentially and only endotracheally intubate if the BVM fails to ventilate appropriately.
- 3) If nebulization is given, or endotracheal intubation performed, members MUST utilize full PPE as detailed for suspected COVID-19 infection.

For any patient where HFD members CONFIRM there is NO suspicion of COVID-19 infection or exposure

- 1) All members will continue to follow the standard guidance in the Patient Care Protocols and Guidelines, utilizing appropriate PPE as required.

For any patient members are unable to determine risk of COVID-19 infection or exposure, follow the guidance for positive or suspect case for COVID-19.

20-082



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