



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

To: All Officers and Members
From: Justin Wells, Assistant Chief *JW*
Through: Robert I. Garcia, Assistant Fire Chief *RIG*
Subject: Exposure Reporting for Possible COVID-19
Date: March 23, 2020

Mayor
Sylvester Turner

City Council

District A
Amy Peck

District B
Jerry Davis

District C
Abbie Kamin

District D
Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

District E
Dave Martin

District F
Tiffany Thomas

District G
Greg Travis

District H
Karla Cisneros

District I
Robert Gallegos

District J
Edward Pollard

District K
Martha Castex-Tatum

At-Large 1
Mike Knox

At-Large 2
David Robinson

At-Large 3
Michael Kubosh

At-Large 4
Letitia Plummer

At-Large 5
Sallie Alcorn

Controller,
Chris Brown

Due to recent changes in area hospitals' communicable disease policies regarding COVID-19 and to streamline exposure reporting for members ONLY reporting a possible exposure to either a patient meeting COVID-19 criteria or a confirmed COVID-19 patient, the following will override *Houston Fire Department Guideline III-03 Infectious Disease and Control, Section 6.03 B*. Upon the completion of patient care, members will:

1. Contact Infection Control at 346-291-4964 for a risk assessment.
2. Members classified as NO RISK:
 - a. No Infectious Disease paperwork is required.
 - b. Supervisor's Accident Packet (WB51) through HFD Risk Management is optional.
3. Members classified as LOW RISK:
 - a. Self-monitoring is required as directed by Infection Control.
 - b. Infectious Disease paperwork is optional.
 - c. WB51 is required through HFD Risk Management.
4. Members classified as MEDIUM or HIGH RISK:
 - a. Member may be subject to Self-Quarantine as directed by Infection Control.
 - b. Infectious Disease paperwork is required. Members are to complete documents with as much detail as possible and submit via fax to 832-394-6890 and deliver to the Infection Control Office (1801 Smith Street, 8th floor)
 - i. Affidavit of Exposure to a Communicable Disease (Form 163) – notarization is not required.
 - ii. Report of Possible Exposure of Transporter (Form 1150) – submission to the hospital is not required.
 - iii. Communication Disease Notification and Documentation (Form 164) – optional.
 - c. WB51 is required through HFD Risk Management.

Due to the volume of calls to Infection Control for COVID-19, if awaiting a callback, units do not need to remain out of service ONLY to report a possible COVID-19 exposure. Members wishing to report communicable disease exposures other than COVID-19 are to use the standard procedure per guideline. For general questions, the Infection Control Office can be reached during normal business hours (08:00 – 16:00, Monday – Friday) at 832-394-6846. All exposures are to be reported through the 24-hour line at 346-291-4946. Any questions regarding the order will be addressed through the chain of command.

20-102



Samuel Peña, Fire Chief
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 "Courage, Commitment and Compassion"
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