



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: PPE and Patient Management - UPDATE
Date: March 26, 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 the recent outbreak of COVID-19 and the increased occurrence of members reporting avoidable exposures to patients, the following directives will be in effect immediately.

- For all medical calls, only one (1) member (Recon) will approach the patient inside a six (6) foot perimeter to evaluate. The Recon will wear the mandatory **“PRIMARY” PPE (Protective Eyewear, N95 Mask, and Gloves)**.
- All members except the Recon will remain outside a six (6) foot perimeter wearing the mandatory **“MINIMUM” PPE (Protective Eyewear and Gloves)** unless the patient’s severity requires members to assist the Recon with patient care. Any assistant members inside the perimeter will wear mandatory **PRIMARY PPE (Protective Eyewear, N95 mask, and Gloves)**.
- Any patient exhibiting aerosol symptoms (cough, sneezing) or fever will have a surgical mask placed on them and any patient with difficulty breathing will have a Non-Rebreather (NRB) Oxygen Mask or Nasal Canula (NC) placed. A surgical mask will be placed over the NRB or NC.
- Any patient that requires aerosolized treatments (nebulizer, CPAP, intubation), CPR, or direct prolonged physical contact or movement of the patient, members inside a six (6) foot perimeter will wear mandatory **“MAXIMUM” PPE (Protective Eyewear, N95 mask, Gloves and Protective Gown)**.
- All patient evaluations will be conducted in accordance to the *Houston Fire Department Patient Care Guidelines and Standing Orders for BLS and ALS Units* including *Section 7.01 C.4.d*, “Vital signs will be measured on all patients to include blood pressure, pulse rate and respiratory rate and **temperature**.”

The goal of the above directives is to reduce member exposure and be prudent in the usage of Department resources. Any questions or concerns regarding this order will be addressed through the chain of command.

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