

From:
To:
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Subject: EMS and COVID-19
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Some Information to help answer question and share with our partners

COVID-19 remains quite dynamic and information is updated often, it is important for you to refer to the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the CDC website regularly to check for the most up-to-date information on signs, symptoms, and precautions.

Pa Dept of Health - <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Bureau of EMS - <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/EMS/Pages/Bulletins.aspx>

CDC- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

Cleaning EMS Transport Vehicles after Transporting a PUI or Patient with Confirmed 2019-nCoV

The following are general guidelines for cleaning or maintaining EMS transport vehicles and equipment after transporting a PUI:

- After transporting the patient, leave the rear doors of the transport vehicle open to allow for sufficient air changes to remove potentially infectious particles.
 - The time to complete transfer of the patient to the receiving facility and complete all documentation should provide sufficient air changes.
- When cleaning the vehicle, EMS clinicians should wear a disposable gown and gloves. A face shield or facemask and goggles should also be worn if splashes or sprays during cleaning are anticipated.
- Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly, to include the provision of adequate ventilation when chemicals are in use. Doors should remain open when cleaning the vehicle.
- Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label) are appropriate for 2019-nCoV in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed.
- Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are recommended for use against 2019-nCoV. These products can be identified by the following claim:
 - “[Product name] has demonstrated effectiveness against viruses similar to 2019-nCoV on hard non-porous surfaces. Therefore, this product can be used against 2019-nCoV when used in accordance with the directions for use against [name of supporting virus] on hard, non-porous surfaces.”

- This claim or a similar claim, will be made only through the following communications outlets: technical literature distributed exclusively to health care facilities, physicians, nurses and public health officials, “1-800” consumer information services, social media sites and company websites (non-label related). Specific claims for “2019-nCoV” will not appear on the product or master label.
- See additional information about EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims .
- If there are no available EPA-registered products that have an approved emerging viral pathogen claim, products with label claims against human coronaviruses should be used according to label instructions.
- Clean and disinfect the vehicle in accordance with standard operating procedures. All surfaces that may have come in contact with the patient or materials contaminated during patient care (e.g., stretcher, rails, control panels, floors, walls, work surfaces) should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using an EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant in accordance with the product label.
- Clean and disinfect reusable patient-care equipment before use on another patient, according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE and regulated medical waste.
- Follow standard operating procedures for containing and laundering used linen. Avoid shaking the linen.

Resources

- NHTSA Webinar: “What EMS and 911 need to know about COVID 19 – February 24, 2020
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrnbufgDqjo>
- CDC Interim Guidance for EMS and 911 PSAPs for COVID-19 in the US
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>
- What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-law-enforcement.html>
- Healthcare Supply of PPE
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/healthcare-supply-ppe.html>
- Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirator-supply-strategies.html>

- CDC Extended use of N95 Masks:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

- EMS HHCD Awareness (National Ebola Training and Education Center)
 - <https://vimeo.com/393298804/d84e02e89b>

- ASPR EMS Infectious Disease Playbook
 - <https://www.ems.gov/pdf/ASPR-EMS-Infectious-Disease-Playbook-June-2017.pdf>

- EMS Pandemic Influenza Guidelines for Statewide Adoption (NHTSA 2007)
 - https://www.ems.gov/pdf/preparedness/Resources/Pandemic_Influenza_Guidelines.pdf

- Interim Pre-pandemic Planning Guidance: Community Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Mitigation in the United States, (CDC 2007)
 - https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/pdf/community_mitigation-sm.pdf

- Crisis Standards of Care: EMS Toolkit (IOM 2013)
 - <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/~media/Files/Report%20Files/2013/CSC-Triggers/EmergencyMedicalServicesToolkit.pdf>