



MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE

2022-04

DATE: February 24, 2022

TO: Pinellas County EMS Agencies
Pinellas County Emergency Communications
Pinellas County Certified EMTs and Paramedics
Pinellas County Certified Advanced Practice Paramedics, Nurses
Pinellas County Online Medical Control Physicians
Pinellas County Ambulance Billing and Financial Services
ED Nurse Managers

FROM: Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allan For MCD".

RE: COVID-19 Guidelines Updates

Effective Date: 0800 hrs. February 25, 2022

The included information is currently based on the best and most current information available.

EMS Coordinators shall ensure rapid and broad distribution (i.e., newsletters, Target Solutions, internal e-mail, etc.)

1. This information supersedes Medical Control Directive 2021-23

COVID-19 Updates:

1. Community transmission of COVID-19 is decreasing in Pinellas County but operational impacts to the EMS System remain significant so **Condition Yellow** remains in effect.
2. CT26.1 Universal COVID-19 Guidance is updated as follows:
 - a. Universal and Full PPE Requirements
 - i. Updates universal Baseline PPE during patient care to reduce baseline from N95/P100 to procedure/surgical mask
 - ii. Full COVID-19 PPE remains unchanged
 - iii. Universal Masking of all patients (age greater than 2 as tolerated) remains in place
 - iv. Updates PPE Placard (reverting back to MCD 2021-20 on October, 19 2021 version)

3. CT26.3 Approach to Suspected COVID-19 Patient:
 - a. Updated to remove prohibition of ambulance “Riders”
 - b. Updated baseline and full PPE as above.
4. A surgical mask is required while participating in group medical training (CME, EMS Academy, etc.)
5. There are no changes to CT26.2 COVID19 Response Plan and Dispatch Actions, CT26.4 COVID-19 Clinical Care, or CT26.5 EMS - Hospital Plan for Transfer of Patient Care

Attachments:

CT26.1 Universal COVID-19 Guidance
CT26.3 Approach to Suspected COVID-19 Patient
PPE Placard

CT26.1 UNIVERSAL COVID19 GUIDANCE

Purpose - To provide an overview of how to stay safe and minimize exposure to COVID-19 through recommendations, processes, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), decontamination, and disposal of medical waste.

OFF DUTY

- Follow CDC/DOH guidance in your personal life to protect yourself and your family
- Stay healthy by eating well, getting enough sleep, washing your hands, etc.
- If you or your family become sick - report this to your supervisor **PRIOR to coming to work**

START OF SHIFT

- Follow your agency's screening process
- Ensure you are starting with a clean environment - decontaminate the station, response vehicle, patient compartment & stretcher (if applicable), medical equipment and bags, etc.
- Keep your personal food/gear away from the patient compartment or areas that could potentially be contaminated
- Ensure you have an adequate supply of and proper PPE and disinfectants
- Use proper PPE (Refer to COVID-19 PPE placard)
- Use proper disinfectants - Follow the **COVID-19 Disinfectant List** (included) guidelines to ensure the correct disinfectant and process is used. Ensure wet time guideline is met

RESPONSE / ON SCENE CARE / TRANSPORT

- Universal masking of all patients
 - All patients (age greater than 2 years as tolerated) will have a procedure/surgical mask applied.
 - Reference CT26.4 for the use of supplemental oxygen
- Utilize baseline PPE for all patients (Refer to PPE placard - Universal COVID-19 Precautions)
 - Nitrile gloves and Surgical mask (minimum Level 2) **OR** N95 respirator and goggles
- Utilize full PPE (Refer to PPE placard - Full PPE) for Respiratory Isolation Precautions (RIP) note, Patient with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19, Patient in Cardiac Arrest, Active Airway Assistance and/or Aerosol Generating Procedures (i.e., suction, high flow oxygen, nebulizer, CPAP, BVM ventilation, airway placement) regardless of suspicion for COVID-19
 - Head:
 - N95 Respirator or Half face elastomeric respirator with P100 Cartridge Filters & goggles **OR**
 - Full-face elastomeric respirator with P100 Cartridge Filters and splash shields
 - Hands: Single Use Nitrile Gloves
 - Body: Gown or Single use coverall (i.e., Dupont Tychem)
- If COVID-19 not suspected, follow standard treatment protocols.
- If COVID-19 suspected use the approach to suspected COVID-19 Patient (CT26.3) protocol to minimize risk.
- Provide care according to the current Pandemic Condition level (**GREEN**, **YELLOW**, **RED**, **BLACK**) and provide EARLY hospital notification

RESPONSE / ON SCENE CARE / TRANSPORT (cont.)

- “If you see something say something”
 - If you see someone without proper PPE or inappropriate actions say something for their safety and yours.
- Report to your chain of command any issues at healthcare facilities, hospitals, other agencies, etc.

AT HOSPITAL / AFTER THE CALL

- Ensure your unit is decontaminated per the **COVID-19 Disinfectant List** (included) guidelines.
- Ensure we follow each hospital’s infection control policies with courtesy (i.e., limiting access in the hospital, wearing a surgical mask, etc.)
- Ensure waste is properly disposed of (i.e., yellow bag for items that are retained for decon vs. a red bag for permanent disposal).
- Decontaminate your full face or half face elastomeric respirator and goggles, as applicable.
- Discard your N95 respirator, as applicable.
- Ensure proper documentation in **ePCR** of what isolation precautions were taken, PPE use per clinician, and final field impression if COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed.

IN BETWEEN CALLS / END OF SHIFT

- Have extra uniforms available and change your uniform to reduce contamination in the station, your response vehicle and personal vehicle.
- Ensure you have fully decontaminated before eating, drinking, smoking, touching your eyes/face, etc.

BE SAFE

- Please keep up the diligence of using proper PPE and disinfection practices to keep yourself, coworkers, work environment, and your family safe.

COVID-19 Disinfectant List

	Primary	Wet Time	Secondary	Wet Time	Other/Specific Notes
Hands (bare)	Soap and Water	20 secs.	Hand Sanitizing Gel or Wipe	20 secs.	Hand Sanitizer - min. 60% Alcohol
Goggles (reusable)	Bleach (wipe or solution - 0.55% concentration)	1 min.	N/A	N/A	MUST rinse in clean water after application of bleach then air dry
Full Face Elastomeric Respirator (any brand)					
Half Face Elastomeric Respirator (any brand)					
Splash/Spark Cover (wipe exterior surface only)					
Gown (single use)	SINGLE USE ONLY	N/A	N/A	N/A	DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DISINFECT
Statpack Response Bags	Hydrogen Peroxide (wipe or solution minimum 1.4% concentration)	1 min.	Commercial Extractor	Normal Cycle	
Major Trauma Bag	Hydrogen Peroxide (wipe or solution minimum 1.4% concentration)	1 min.	Commercial Extractor	Normal Cycle	
Glucometer	Hydrogen Peroxide (wipe or solution minimum 1.4% concentration)	1 min.	Isopropyl Alcohol (minimum 60%)	30 secs.	
BP Cuff (Nylon)					
Stethoscope					
Trauma Shears	Isopropyl Alcohol (minimum 60%)	30 secs.	N/A	N/A	Dispose of when unable to properly decontaminate
Bandage Shears					
Stretcher (in its entirety)	Per manufacturer instructions		Per manufacturer instructions		
Panasonic CF20	Isopropyl Alcohol (minimum 60%)	1 min.	Hydrogen Peroxide (wipe or solution minimum 1.4% concentration)	30 secs.	
Panasonic CF20 LED Stylus					
Philips MRx - Device					
Philips MRx - All Cables					
Motorola Portable Radios (all models)	Isopropyl Alcohol (minimum 60%)	30 secs.	N/A	N/A	
Vehicle - Cab Interior (hard surfaces)	Isopropyl Alcohol (minimum 60%)	30 secs.	N/A	N/A	
Vehicle - Patient Compartment	Per agency specific instructions	N/A	Per agency specific instructions	N/A	
General Hard Surfaces (when not noted above)	Hydrogen Peroxide (wipe or solution minimum 1.4% concentration)	1 min.	Isopropyl Alcohol (minimum 60%)	30 secs.	

CT26.3 APPROACH TO SUSPECTED COVID19 PATIENT

GOAL - MINIMIZE UNPROTECTED EXPOSURES

- Use the “Isolation Precautions Taken” intervention in ePCR to document what PPE was utilized.
- Enter the number of personnel who donned PPE in the intervention qualifier.
- Document what PPE was employed by each clinician in the Crew section.

SUSPECT COVID-19 with **any** of the following patient symptoms regardless of dispatch notes, travel, or contact history:

- Fever or Chills (not required)
- Flu-like symptoms/body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Upper respiratory (congestion, sore throat, headache)
- Lower respiratory (cough or respiratory difficulty)
- Fatigue
- Gastrointestinal (GI) (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)
- Patient with current laboratory confirmed COVID19 diagnosis

PROTECT YOURSELF:

- **Limit the number of clinicians approaching a suspected COVID-19 patient.**
- **If making patient contact, don FULL PPE** anytime you suspect COVID-19 *regardless* of dispatch information (Refer to the PPE placard)
 - N95 Respirator + goggles **OR**
 - Half face elastomeric respirator with P100 Cartridge Filters + goggles **OR**
 - Full-face elastomeric respirator with P100 Cartridge Filters (and splash shields)
 - Gown or single use coverall (i.e.Dupont Tychem)

PROTECT FAMILY MEMBERS:

“RIDERS” ARE PERMITTED in the ambulance with the following **REQUIREMENT**:

- Any rider should wear a surgical mask

COVID-19 PPE: UNIVERSAL COVID19 PRECAUTIONS

Patient:

- Universal masking of all patients
 - **ALL** patients (age greater than 2 as tolerated) will have a procedure/surgical mask applied

EMS Clinicians – Baseline PPE*:

- Head:
 - Surgical Mask **OR**
 - N95 Respirator & Goggles
- Hands: Single Use Nitrile Gloves

* A clinician who is unvaccinated or “High Risk” is encouraged to use a N95 respirator as baseline PPE



Revised 02/24/22

COVID-19 PPE: RESPIRATORY ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

Patient:

- Universal masking of all patients
 - All patients (age greater than 2 years as tolerated) will have a procedure/surgical mask applied

EMS Clinicians:

- Head:
 - N95 Respirator & goggles **OR**
 - Half face elastomeric respirator with P100 Cartridge Filters & goggles **OR**
 - Full-face elastomeric respirator with P100 Cartridge Filters and splash shields
- Hands: Single Use Nitrile Gloves
- Body:
 - Gown **OR**
 - Single use coverall (i.e., Dupont Tychem)



Revised 02/24/22