



MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE

2023-04

DATE: January 3, 2023

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 

RE: INFLUENZA - EIDS UPDATE

Effective Date: 0800 hrs. January 4, 2023

Field Personnel:

- The rate of influenza has returned to pre-pandemic levels and continues to rapidly rise. Further information may be accessed here: <https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/index.html>
- Field Personnel are reminded to take appropriate baseline precautions (gloves, surgical mask, handwashing and equipment decontamination) for any patient contact and to add enhanced PPE (N95/Full face respirator with P100 filter, eye protection, gown) as appropriate to protect yourself and your family when treating a patient with suspected influenza or other infectious condition. (Ref. CS20-Infectious Diseases/Pandemic)
- In consideration of the multiple respiratory viruses currently circulating in high levels in our community, beginning January 4, 2023, dispatchers will begin *moving from COVID-specific questions to standard Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) questions in all medical call types*. When screening questions are positive, dispatchers will be adding the following CAD note to remind you to take appropriate precautions:

\$Respiratory isolation precautions!

Emergency Medical Dispatchers:

- Effective January 4, 2023, at 0800 hrs., call takers performing EMD in Pinellas County will transition to utilizing the Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance Tool (EIDS) on all non-traumatic complaints. This supersedes the following previous guidance:
 - MCD 2022-10 dated May 27, 2022
 - Protocol CS20.3 - COVID 19 Response Plan & Dispatch Operations
- EIDS will be initiated after completing final coding and giving Post-Dispatch Instructions (PDIs).
- The initial question will be: “Do you or anyone else there with you have any flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, or sore throat?” in accordance with Regional 911 SOP Section 3.1.
- Travel questions are not required at this time.
- Positive responses will be recorded using the checklist in the EIDS tool page in the Pro-QA software.
- Two (2) or more symptoms/positive responses will be considered a positive screening and will cause call takers to enter the RIP (Respiratory Isolation Precautions) speed note.