

COVID-19 Guidance Update EMS Providers

Monday, March 2, 2020

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was identified in NYS over the weekend. CDC and World Health Organizations are still leaning towards this virus being spread to a pandemic throughout the country and world.

Wyoming County Office of Emergency Services, Wyoming County Health Department and Wyoming County Community Health System are working daily to review guidance and develop procedures within the county for response to a suspected or confirmed case.

We know right now that personal protective equipment is in high demand and limited availability. We urge you to carefully evaluate your stock levels and place orders as needed. Please review guidance documents as updated which will be forwarded through the Emergency Services Office. As this virus has similarities to flu symptoms, there will not be a way to determine in the field if the patient may have COVID-19. It is important to consider travel history and remember the 14 day period associated with this virus. Prompt notification to the receiving hospital is key to an effective response and to limit the spread of this virus.

Please review and distribute the attached information sheet to all providers. We urge you to discuss your policies and procedures, practice donning and doffing, and plan for responses to possible calls related to this virus.

If you have any questions please contact the Emergency Services Office at 585-786-8867.



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Patient Contact Precautions:

- Initial patient contact should be 6 feet away
- Don single pair of disposable exam gloves with disposable isolation gown, respiratory protection (N95 or higher) and eye protection (goggles or disposable face shield)
- Drivers should be isolated by closing door and turning on exhaust fan in back of ambulance with ventilation on non-recirculated mode
- Remember proper doffing of PPE
- Patient should wear a mask (not N-95) if possible
- Early notification to hospital
- If performing an aerosol generating procedure (ie. Nebulizer) try to keep back door of ambulance open or do in well ventilated area
- Discourage family/friends from riding in ambulance

Cleaning of Ambulance/ Equipment:

- Disposable gown and gloves
- Facemask and goggles/face shield if splashes are possible
- Use products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims

Other actions:

- Review policies for exposure risks, management and reporting
- Report any potential exposure immediately
- Watch for fever or symptoms
- Practice donning and doffing techniques
- Ensure adequate supply of PPE

Additional Guidance:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html

<https://go.usa.gov/xd9dY>

