



CFR-D Manual, Chapter 6
OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTIVE 2020-06
March 10, 2020

COVID-19 PPE UPDATE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 COVID-19 has been identified in the community, including NYC, and has been identified as “community spread” in some situations. Currently, high risk remains to those who have traveled through restricted areas or had close contact with someone who is ill and traveled through those areas. But with community spread occurring, we must consider that any patient with flu-like illness symptoms (fever, cough) or respiratory complaints may possibly be infected with COVID 19. While it is less likely, it is possible. Therefore, these amended PPE orders shall be adhered to in order to further protect all responders.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This directive applies to all FDNY EMS providers (CFRs, EMTs, paramedics, and Officers) and Voluntary Hospital ambulance personnel who provide prehospital emergency medical treatment in the New York City 911 system.

3. Procedures

- 3.1 In order to protect all prehospital providers, effective immediately, a surgical mask, gloves, and eye protection, and a gown shall be worn by all providers whenever a patient is encountered who has any respiratory symptoms. Additionally, if the patient can safely tolerate a surgical mask, one should be placed on that patient. If oxygen is necessary, then oxygen shall be administered per regional protocols.
- 3.2 A patient who is suspicious for COVID-19 will be identified by EMD with an FC suffix. In those cases, all responders **MUST** wear appropriate PPE including gloves, gowns, an **N95**, and eye protection. This includes cases that may not be identified as an FC initially but is identified to meet FC criteria upon arrival by the crew.
- 3.3 N95, eye protection, gloves, and gowns **MUST** be worn whenever any patient, (suspected or not) receives any procedures that may generate aerosolization such as nebulization, intubation, high flow 100% oxygen, or CPAP.
- 3.4 For all non-respiratory call types, standard PPE shall be utilized. Surgical masks are not required at this time.

**BY ORDER OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER, CHIEF OF EMS
AND THE OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS**