



# Informational Bulletin

## COVID-19 Updates

Date: August 25, 2021

Number: 21.040

Effective Date: August 25, 2021

Expiration Date: N/A

Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve with new and potentially more transmissible variants it remains the goal of department leadership to advise and implement the most up to date guidelines and practices among our workforce; to keep all system personnel safe and healthy. Over the course of this pandemic several policies and procedures have been distributed to assist personnel in understanding and implementing the most accurate and up to date practices to prevent illness.

Pursuant to County Administration and Center for Disease Control recommendations for areas of substantial or high transmission of COVID-19 virus and variants, an update to our mask mandate is hereby reinstated and revisions of the following COVID-19 Information Bulletins and regulations are also reinstated. This will strengthen our protection while decreasing the spread of COVID-19 and variants.

- GO 20.101 – Reinstatement of COVID 19 Guidelines (Version 2) attached.
- IB 20.013- Information regarding the spread and symptomology of COVID-19. This information continues to be applicable to personnel and remains in effect.
- IB 20.019- EMS crew clearance by shift officers. This policy is hereby reinstated. Personnel should not report for duty if they are ill and supervisors should be made aware of any personnel who are symptomatic while on duty.
- IB 20.020, 20.025, and 20.034- Image Trend Update. Crews will continue to complete all information in ImageTrend as required.
- IB 20.021 and 20.029- COVID-19 Job Aid. PPE requirements for EMS incidents are still in place. All crew members should be wearing appropriate PPE per policy and are able to assess and assist with patient care as necessary. All hospital policies regarding PPE and patient transfer as well as patient visitors are still in effect unless otherwise noted by those facilities
- IB 20.022 and 20.033- Viral Filters. These policies remain applicable and in effect.
- IB 20.023, 20.028, and 20.032 UPDATE\*- Medical Monitoring Screenings. These policies are reinstated immediately. Medical screening is required for all personnel entering stations. Please continue to be vigilant in regards to your own health and wellbeing and utilize sick leave if appropriate. All medical monitoring equipment is in process of being returned and couriered to stations immediately.

- IB 20.027 UPDATE\*- COVID-19 PSTrax. Wellness checks will need to be performed or documented in PSTrax. Equipment (including decon supplies) checks should still be completed daily.
- IB 20.031 UPDATE\*- COVID 19 Face Masks. Fauquier County Administration requires all personnel in County buildings to utilize face coverings regardless of vaccination status at all times. Understanding that Fire and Rescue personnel are inherently different and are at times in close proximity to other personnel for extended periods of time, due diligence will need to be exercised; exceptions would include meals, cohabitation if facilities cannot promote distancing; overall social distancing should be exercised as much as practically possible.
- IB 20.035 and 20.043- Station Shoes. Uniform “duty” boots will continue to be left in apparatus bays. Department issued Crocs should be worn in stations. This does not apply to administrative, support services, or command staff personnel. All duty boots should be cleaned as a part of normal decon procedures.
- IB 20.039- Rain Suits. Department issued rain suits are still to be used per policy in case of extreme PPE shortages. They should not be used in place of PPE when normal equipment is available.
- IB 20.040- Boot Cleaning. Boot cleaning equipment and stations are still available in apparatus bays. Use is not mandatory but available in case of boot soiling.
- IB 20.041- Goggles. Goggles are available for use, but are no longer required for aerosolizing procedures. Any department issued eye protection is required and sufficient for these procedures.
- IB 20.042- Ambulance decon Team. This policy has been rescinded. The decon team and weekly decon process has been discontinued. Weekly and as needed decon should be managed in stations. Equipment and decontamination solution has been issued and delivered to stations and the Fauquier Hospital decon room.
- IB 20.073- Envo Masks. This policy is still applicable and in effect.
- IB 21.006- Sick Leave. This policy is still applicable and in effect.

Questions regarding this informational bulletin or any COVID-19 related policy changes should be directed to Battalion Chief Lorenzen.



# COVID-19 Guidelines (VERSION 2)

## for possible or confirmed Persons Under Investigation (PUI)

If CAD/Dispatch indicates positive ECC pre-screening **or** if patient complains of signs/symptoms, providers should screen from >6ft away:

Patient Risk Factors		Signs/Symptoms (ANY)
<p>Has the patient traveled from an <b>affected geographic area (consult current list)</b> in the past 14 days?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Has the patient been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (novel coronavirus)?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Has the patient <b>severe, acute</b> lower respiratory illness without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g. flu) <b>and</b> no source of exposure identified?</p>	<b>AND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measured body temperature of 100.4 or higher</li> <li>• Fever (hot to the touch in room temperature)</li> <li>• Chills</li> <li>• Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath</li> <li>• Persistent cough</li> <li>• Any other new respiratory problems               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (e.g. persistent sneezing, wheezing, congestion, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

On positive screen (any risk factor **and** any sign/symptom) providers should:

<p>Limit exposure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Surgical</b> mask on patient (self-applied if possible)</li> <li>• Restrict access (minimum required personnel only)</li> </ul> <p>Upgrade PPE if not already done*</p> <p>Notify Battalion Chief Lorenzen (<b>540-522-0715</b>) or Acting Captain Frinks (<b>540-222-0426</b>).</p>	<p>Use caution with aerosol generating procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BVM</li> <li>• CPAP</li> <li>• Suction</li> <li>• ETT/SGA</li> </ul>
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### \*PPE Guidelines

<p>Provider PPE (caring for/in compartment with patient)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N-95</li> <li>• Gloves (single pair, change if torn or heavily contaminated)</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Eye/face shielding with droplet protection</li> </ul>	<p>Driver PPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full provider PPE while providing direct care</li> <li>• N95 during transport (after doffing and discarding other PPE and hand hygiene &gt;30 seconds)</li> </ul>
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### Transport Actions

<p>Prior to patient entry into unit, isolate box from cab as much as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure vehicle HVAC systems are venting outside (non-circulated)</li> <li>• Pressurize cab (open exterior vents and turn on blower)</li> <li>• Use rear box exhaust fan if so equipped</li> <li>• Do not use shared box/cab HVAC systems if so equipped</li> </ul>	<p>Fully inform receiving facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm availability of negative pressure room</li> </ul> <p>Family/friends should drive separately</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If required to ride in transport unit, face masks should be worn</li> </ul> <p>Refer to BC Lorenzen and Bulletins for unit/personal decon guidance</p>
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*These actions (excepting Health Department notification) are also appropriate for symptomatic patients who do not meet the patient risk factor screening criteria (e.g. suspected flu).*