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Interim County Executive
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Divisions

Behavioral Health Services
Primary Health
Public Health
Departmental Administration

County of Sacramento

Office Memorandum

Date: August 19, 2021

To: Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SCEMSA) EMS Provider Agencies

From: SCEMSA

Subject: **UPDATE: EMS workforce monitoring and surveillance in relation to Coronavirus (COVID-19): Revision #8**

This is to supplement SCEMSA Policy Document PD# 5200 – Emerging Infectious Disease 2019 Coronavirus, and is intended to define EMS workforce monitoring and surveillance in relation to the Coronavirus outbreak. This guideline replaces the memo of the same name issued June 29, 2021, and is effective immediately. This current update is based on CDC guidelines for:

[Testing Strategy for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in High-Density Critical Infrastructure Workplaces after a COVID-19 Case Is Identified | CDC](#)

Due to the current prevalence of COVID-19 infection in the community, all patients shall be presumed to possibly have COVID-19, and appropriate infection control and PPE requirements shall be taken.

Use standard contact and droplet precautions (gloves, N95 or higher (P100) respirator) and eye protection (goggles) for all patient encounters.

Any EMS personnel responding to a known or suspected Coronavirus patient shall don appropriate PPE prior to coming in contact with the patient, per PD# 5200.

With existing community spread of SARS-CoV-2, EMS workforce exposures can occur when wearing inadequate PPE with a patient who is subsequently found to test COVID+, from PPE breaches with COVID+ patients, or from the community or co-workers on shift. Management of these exposures shall follow the algorithm below, developed by the CDC, which can be found at:

[CDC Testing Strategy workflow for Critical Infrastructure Workplaces](#)

Based on the algorithm:

- Tier 1 exposures shall remain off work until results of the day-3 post-exposure test are available, and can return to work with symptom and temperature monitoring if day-3 test is negative.
- Personnel riding in the back of the ambulance, or with direct physical contact at any time without wearing adequate PPE with a patient who subsequently is confirmed COVID+ are considered Tier 1 contacts
- Tier 2 and Tier 3 contacts may continue to work after negative baseline testing with symptom and temperature monitoring.
- Personnel riding in the cab of the ambulance and without direct physical contact with the patient are considered Tier 2 exposures

Please address any questions to Ben Merin 916-500-3739, or Dr. Garzon

August 18, 2021

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