

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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TO:	All DES- Communications Staff <i>Department of Emergency Services</i>
FROM:	Christopher "Butch" Roberts, Assistant Chief <i>Department of Emergency Services</i>
SUBJECT:	UPDATE...COVID-2019 Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Tool
DATE:	March 27, 2020

In the interest of responder safety, 9-1-1 Specialists in Maryland have begun screening patients who may be infected with the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-2019). Effective March 5, 2020, Charles County DES-Communications began screening as well.

Upon receipt of a request for EMS services, the 9-1-1 specialist shall follow calltaking procedures until such time that a response determinant has been reached. Once a response determinant has been reached (sent to dispatch), the 9-1-1 Specialist shall initiate the EID Screening tool found in the tool bar of the EMD Protocols. **Effective today, March 27, 2020, Charles County will begin screening ALL EMS Calls, regardless of protocol.** Furthermore, you **will not** be required to ask the following question regarding travel:

~~1. Has the patient travelled to China, Iran, Italy, Japan, or South Korea within the last 14 days?~~

However, 9-1-1 specialists **will** continue to ask:

☐ **Has the patient had close contact with an ill patient with laboratory confirmed COVID-2019 within the last 14 days?**

Furthermore, 9-1-1 specialists will continue to ask the symptom questions at the bottom of the tool regardless of the answer given to the question above. The questions shall be read as follows:

"Now tell me if he/she has any of the following symptoms:"

- ☐ **Measured body temperature greater than or equal to 100.4°F (38.0°C)**
- ☐ **Fever (hot to the touch in room temperature)**
- ☐ **Chills**
- ☐ **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- ☐ **Persistent Cough**
- ☐ **Any other new respiratory problems (e.g. persistent sneezing, wheezing, congestion, etc.)**

After obtaining the above information, provide the *Infection Prevention Instructions* (if needed) and check appropriate boxes.

Upon obtaining the aforementioned information the 9-1-1 Specialist shall communicate those facts to the field responders with language such as:

- “This patient with a fever and low respiratory symptoms has/has not:
 - Had close contact with an ill patient with laboratory confirmed COVID-2019 virus infection.

Please **DO NOT** use the term PUI (Person Under Investigation).

The screenshot shows the 'EIDS Tool' interface in 'Trigger mode'. The top bar includes 'Abbreviations', 'Additional Info', and 'Limitations Warning' tabs. Below the tabs are 'Cancel' and 'Info Completed' buttons. The main content area is titled 'Listen carefully and tell me if s/he has any of the following symptoms:'. It includes a section for 'Medical Director-approved additional questions:' with two checkboxes: 'Are you or anyone in the household sick? (POLICE EVENTS ONLY)' and 'Has the patient had close contact with an ill patient with laboratory confirmed COVID-2019 within the last 14 days?'. Below this is a section for 'Ask only in early phases when new flu, respiratory illness, or hemorrhagic fever is emerging from specific areas:' with a 'Travel History/Patient Contact History' section containing several checkboxes related to travel and contact with infected individuals or healthcare workers. At the bottom, it says 'Now tell me if s/he has any of the following symptoms:' followed by a checkbox for 'measured body temperature ≥ 100.4° F (38.0° C)'. The footer includes '© 2003–2020 IAED' and a note about switching modes in ProQA's Admin Utility.

This screenshot shows the continuation of the 'EIDS Tool' interface. It displays the 'Now tell me if s/he has any of the following symptoms:' section with checkboxes for 'measured body temperature ≥ 100.4° F (38.0° C)', 'fever (hot to the touch in room temperature)', 'chills', 'difficulty breathing or shortness of breath', 'persistent cough', and 'any other new respiratory problems (e.g., persistent sneezing, wheezing, congestion, etc.)'. Below this is the 'Infection Prevention Instructions:' section, which includes a red instruction to '(Keep isolated) From now on, don't allow anyone to come in close contact with her/him.' and a checkbox for 'Infection Prevention Instructions given'. The 'Medical Director-approved Special Instructions:' section is also visible at the bottom. The footer remains the same as the previous screenshot.