

# CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT

# INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Equal Opportunity Employer



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

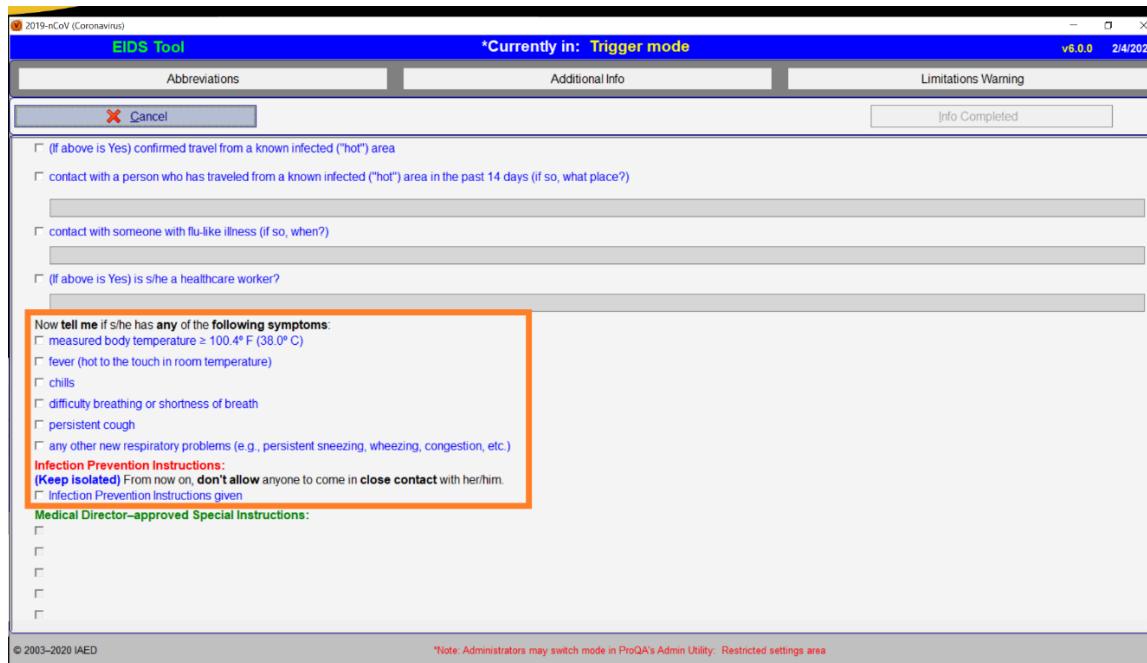
Upon obtaining the aforementioned information the 9-1-1 Specialist shall communicate those facts to the field responders with language such as:

- “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).**



2019-nCoV (Coronavirus)  
EIDS Tool \*Currently in: Trigger mode v6.0.0 2/4/2020  
Abbreviations Additional Info Limitations Warning  
Cancel Info Completed  
Listen carefully and tell me if s/he has **any** of the following symptoms.  
Medical Director-approved additional questions:  
 Are you or anyone in the household sick? (POLICE EVENTS ONLY)  
  
 Has the patient had close contact with an ill patient with laboratory confirmed COVID-2019 within the last 14 days?  
Ask only in early phases when new flu, respiratory illness, or hemorrhagic fever is emerging from specific areas:  
Travel History/Patient Contact History  
 has s/he traveled in the last 14 days (if so, where?)  
  
 (If above is Yes) confirmed travel from a known infected ("hot") area  
 contact with a person who has traveled from a known infected ("hot") area in the past 14 days (if so, what place?)  
  
 contact with someone with flu-like illness (if so, when?)  
  
 (If above is Yes) is s/he a healthcare worker?  
Now tell me if s/he has **any** of the following symptoms:  
 measured body temperature  $\geq$  100.4° F (38.0° C)  
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 contact with a person who has traveled from a known infected ("hot") area in the past 14 days (if so, what place?)  
  
 contact with someone with flu-like illness (if so, when?)  
  
 (If above is Yes) is s/he a healthcare worker?  
Now tell me if s/he has **any** of the following symptoms:  
 measured body temperature  $\geq$  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.)  
Infection Prevention Instructions:  
**(Keep isolated)** From now on, don't allow anyone to come in close contact with her/him.  
 Infection Prevention Instructions given  
Medical Director-approved Special Instructions:  
  
  
  
  
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