

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:	April 8, 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 request for **Police** or **Fire** services, the 9-1-1 specialist shall follow calltaking procedures until such time that *case entry* information has been obtained. Once *case entry* information is recorded and prior to moving onto key question, the 9-1-1 specialist shall initiate the EID screening tool found in the tool bar of the EPD and EFD Protocols. **Charles County will screen ALL 1st/2nd Party calls and 3rd party call when the caller wants to be contacted.**

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.**

9-1-1 specialists **will** ask the following:

- ☐ Are you or anyone on scene sick? **(EPD and EFD ONLY)**
- ☐ Has the patient had close contact with an ill patient with laboratory confirmed COVID-2019 within the last 14 days?

Furthermore, for **EMD**, 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. For **EPD** and **EFD**, the symptom question will only be asked if a YES answer is provided to the questions above. The symptom 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 enter/modify the PUI field on the CAD *Case/Event Entry* sheet and 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.


Medical Director has not authorized the use of the term PUI (Person Under Investigation).

Cc: Tony Rose, Deputy Director, Emergency Services
Michelle Lilly, Director, Emergency Services
Lt. C. Gass, #439, Communications Commander

COVID-19

EIDS Tool *Currently in: **Trigger mode** v6.0.1 3/26/2020

Abbreviations Additional Info Limitations Warning

 Cancel Info Completed

EMD

Listen carefully:

Ask only the early phases when new flu, respiratory illness, or hemorrhagic fever is emerging from specific areas (these early phase questions can be turned off or on in Admin):

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 $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ (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.)

Medical Director–approved additional questions: Start Here!

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

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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COVID-19

EIDS Tool *Currently in: **Trigger mode** v6.0.1 3/27/2020

Abbreviated Warning

EFD and EPD

Ask only in early phases when new flu, respiratory illness, or hemorrhagic fever is emerging from specific areas (these early phase questions can be turned off or on in Admin):

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 $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ (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.)

Medical Director–approved additional questions: Start Here!

- ☐ Are you or anyone on scene sick? (If YES, ask symptom questions)

- ☐ Has anyone on scene had close contact with an ill patient with laboratory confirmed COVID-2019 within the last 14 days? (If YES, ask symptom questions)

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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