

*St. Clair County Medical Control Authority*

**\*Emergency\* System Protocols**

Agency Guideline for EMS Providers Reporting Exposure or Illness with  
Suspicion of COVID-19 Infection

March, 2020

Section 8.42

**Agency Guideline for EMS Providers Reporting Exposure or Illness with  
Suspicion of COVID-19 Infection**

**Purpose:** To provide guidance for LSAs when their personnel report illness consistent with COVID-19 infection, or after their personnel report close contact with a patient screened positive for COVID-19, while not wearing the recommended PPE.

**Definition**

**Exposure:** Refers to any close contact with a patient who screens positive for COVID-19, without the recommended PPE (mask, gloves, eye protection).

- I. EMS providers should report any exposure to a patient at risk for COVID-19 to their employer, as soon as possible
- II. Following the report of an exposure by EMS personnel to a patient who has screened, or tested positive for COVID-19 infection, EMS providers may be permitted to return to work as long as they are asymptomatic.
  - a. A mask should be worn while working at all times by the exposed EMS provider for a period of 14 days following the exposure.
  - b. The EMS provider may be allowed to continue working as long as he/she remains asymptomatic.
  - c. If symptoms develop, the EMS provider should no longer be permitted to continue working.
    - i. Symptoms include:
      1. Fever, malaise, body aches
      2. Cough, sore throat
      3. Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea
  - d. In the presence of symptomatic illness with suspicion of COVID-19, LSAs should recommend that their EMS providers stay home, in self quarantine, and monitor themselves for indications of more serious illness.
    - i. Following recovery, EMS providers should not be permitted to return to work any sooner than 24 hours after their fever breaks without medications to control a fever.
  - e. Agencies should NOT refer their personnel for COVID-19 testing unless any of the following conditions are met:
    - i. The EMS provider possesses risk factors for serious complications related to COVID-19 infection, including:
      1. Older adults (over 65)
      2. Chronic medical conditions, like:
        - a. Heart disease

MCA Name: St. Clair Co. MCA

MCA Board Approval Date: Dr. Ronald Thies, EMS Medical Director

MCA Implementation Date: 03-20-2020

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- b. Lung disease
- c. Diabetes
- ii. Or, the EMS provider develops indications of serious illness, including:
  - 1. Chest pain
  - 2. Shortness of breath
  - 3. Difficulty breathing
- iii. If symptoms associated with serious illness develop, EMS providers should seek immediate medical attention, and provide notification of his/her risk for COVID-19 infection.
- f. Based on the above criteria, when COVID-19 testing is indicated, it should be coordinated by each agency's EMS Coordinator, or Captain and their agency's medical control hospital.

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