

COVID-19

First Responders:

Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



HEALTH
Department

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The following is interim guidance for all first responders, including law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, and emergency management officials, who anticipate close contact with persons with confirmed or possible COVID-19 in the course of their work.

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19



Fever



Dry Cough



Shortness of Breath

PPE, DON'T MIND ME!

- EMS clinicians who will directly care for a patient with possible COVID-19 infection or who will be in the compartment with the patient should follow Standard, Precautions and use the PPE as described below. Recommended PPE includes:

- **N-95 or higher-level respirator or facemask** (if a respirator is not available)
 - N95 respirators or respirators that offer a higher level of protection should be used instead of a facemask when performing or present for an aerosol-generating procedure.



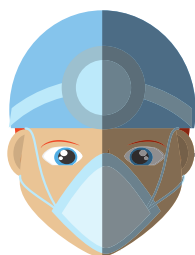
- **Eye protection** (e.g., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face).
 - Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.



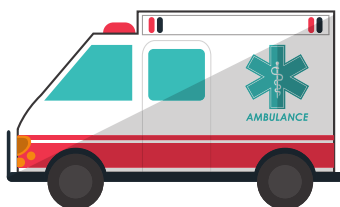
- **A single pair of disposable patient examination gloves.**
 - Change gloves if they become torn or heavily contaminated, and isolation gown.
 - If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for aerosol-generating procedures, care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, and high-contact patient care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of pathogens to the hands and clothing of EMS clinicians (e.g., moving patient onto a stretcher).



- When the supply chain is restored, fit-tested EMS clinicians should return to use of respirators for patients with known or suspected COVID-19.



- **Drivers**, if they provide direct patient care (e.g., moving patients onto stretchers), should wear all recommended PPE.
 - After completing patient care and before entering an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove and dispose of PPE and perform hand hygiene to avoid soiling the compartment.
 - If the transport vehicle does not have an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove the face shield or goggles, gown and gloves and perform hand hygiene.
 - A respirator or facemask should continue to be used during transport.



- All personnel should avoid touching their face while working.



- On arrival, after the patient is released to the facility, EMS clinicians should remove and discard PPE and perform hand hygiene. Used PPE should be discarded in accordance with routine procedures.



RESOURCES

- [CDC/COVID-19](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Administration](#)
- [MDHHS](#)
- [Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings](#)



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