



TITLE: Coronavirus Policy (COVID-19)  
EFFECTIVE: 3/13/2020 (updated)

SECTION: Infection Control

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**PURPOSE:** To provide any system prehospital emergency services first responder (ambulance personnel, firefighters and police) guidance in identifying and treating and transporting patients who may have Novel Coronavirus.  
To minimize provider, ED, hospital, and other patients within the ED, hospital corridors, and adjacent waiting rooms from possible exposure to the Novel Coronavirus.

**POLICY:** Providers in the Loyola Emergency Medical Services System must follow the Novel Corona Virus Plan to identify and prevent or minimize exposure to 2019-nCoV. The Novel Coronavirus plan follows the Region VIII Emerging Infectious Disease SMO.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. **Ask about travel to China, South Korea, Iran, Italy, Germany, Spain, France and Japan within 14 days prior to illness onset or contact with individuals who had traveled to China. Ask about any person, including healthcare workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset. Additionally, EMS should use these same precautions with any patient who reports influenza like illness.**
2. Isolate patients reporting fever ( $T > 100.4F$  or  $> 38C$ ) with respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath)
  - a. Place surgical mask on patient.
3. Implement infection control procedures for providers.
  - a. Standard Precautions
  - b. Contact Precautions (gloves, gown)
  - c. Eye Protection (goggles, face shield)
  - d. Airborne Precautions N95 mask, (SCBA, CBRN, or PAPR). Per CDC 3/10/20 guidance, "facemasks are an acceptable alternative until supply chain is restored. **Respirators should be prioritized for procedures that are likely to generate respiratory aerosols, which would provide the highest risk to first responders.**"
4. Transport to closest Emergency Department following routine transport policies.
  - a. Once at the facility, you may be asked to wait in the ambulance with the patient for an appropriate room to become available. Staff may treat patient in the ambulance until such time that an appropriate room within the hospital becomes available.