

Gallatin County COVID-19

Pre-Hospital Quick Reference

Effective 3/11/2020

This document addresses the concept of operation from receipt of 911 call, to arrival at hospital, for response to a patient with suspected COVID-19 exposure. This guide will be updated as dictated by new guidance and the current situation in Gallatin County, MT.

Receipt of 911 Call

- Gallatin County dispatch will screen callers utilizing current COVID-19 screening criteria with patients that EMD classifies as Sick Person or Breathing Problems.
- If the patient meets the screening criteria for being a Patient Under Investigation (PUI), Dispatch will advise the responding fire department, ambulance and law enforcement agencies verbally over the radio that the PUI criteria has been met.

On Scene Actions

- Agency Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) should confirm the patient meeting the PUI Criteria.
 - If information about potential for COVID-19 has not been provided by dispatch:
 - EMS clinicians should exercise appropriate precautions when responding to any patient with signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection. Initial assessment should begin from a distance of at least 6 feet from the patient, if possible.
 - Patient contact should be minimized to the extent possible until a facemask is on the patient.
 - The patient should be screened for potential COVID-19 exposure or travel history.
- If COVID-19 screening is positive:
 - Minimize responder contact with patient to only those absolutely necessary
 - Maintain at least 6 foot distance between patient and non-critical responders.
 - Immediately implement personal protective equipment.
 - Place mask on patient immediately.
 - Mask, gloves and eye protection on all responders.
 - Surgical mask is acceptable in place of N95.
 - Do not touch mouth or eyes.
 - Wash hands.
 - The AHJ contacts Medical Control to advise of the current situation.
 - If nebulizer treatment, BVM, suction, intubation or other aerosol generating procedure is needed, all involved responders should utilize N95 or PAPR for respiratory protection.
 - If a nebulizer treatment is needed, a well-ventilated area is preferable to the back of the ambulance. If procedures are required in the ambulance, and if the situation allows, open the rear ambulance doors and have the HVAC system on high during the procedure to increase ventilation.

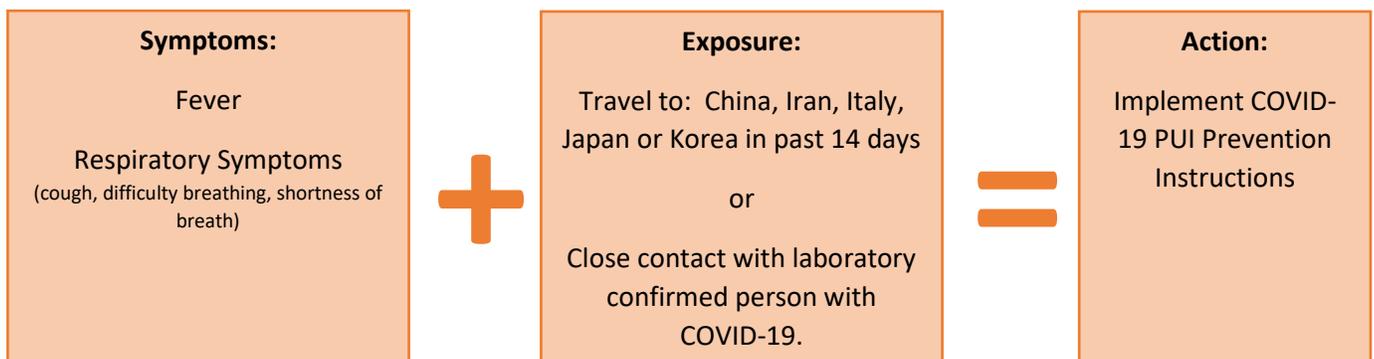
Patient Transport

- No need to delay transport or prepare ambulance in a special way.
- When providing patient update to ER, inquire if there are any special instructions for when you arrive at the hospital (i.e. wait for room to be prepared, come in a certain way, etc...).
- 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 (if used) and gloves and perform hand hygiene. A respirator or mask should continue to be used during transport.
- Do not transport family members or other riders in the ambulance when possible.

Post Transport

- Decontaminate equipment and ambulance utilizing regular cleanup procedures and solutions.

Evaluation Criteria – March 4, 2020



Resources

Medical Control: (406) 414-1024

Gallatin City-County Health Department: (406) 582-3100 business hours or through dispatch after hours

CDC PUI Criteria (3/4/20): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

CDC EMS Guidance (3/10/20): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>