



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Sheila Kuehl
Third District

Janice Hahn
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Fifth District

Cathy Chidester
Director

Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD
Medical Director

10100 Pioneer Blvd, Suite 200
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Tel: (562) 378-1500
Fax: (562) 941-5835

To ensure timely, compassionate and quality emergency and disaster medical services.



Health Services
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>

March 17, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

TO: See Distribution
FROM: Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD
Medical Director
SUBJECT: COVID-19 UPDATE #4

Current Status Update

As of March 17, 2020, there are 144 cases that have tested positive for COVID in Los Angeles County.

Dispatch

Currently Dispatch is continuing to screen for respiratory symptoms, for travel outside of the United States and for exposure to a COVID-19 positive patient. See attached updated Dispatch Screening Tool.

Policies and Policy Waivers

Policy waivers as per revised policy 1142 and 1142.1 need to be submitted to Mr. John Telmos at jtelmos@dhs.lacounty.gov

Changes in Recommended PPE

The Centers for Disease Control has modified its recommendations on necessary PPE. These changes recognize that the supply chain for some of the PPE is limited. Therefore, if minimal patient interventions are required and/or contact is limited to ≥6 feet from the patient, full PPE is not necessary nor advised for those providers.

See attached PPE flow diagram.

When responding to any EMS call, make sure to obtain information on whether the patient has fever, cough and/or respiratory symptoms (ideally while remaining 6 feet away); in all these cases, regardless of travel history, the first EMS provider who assesses the patient should don personal protective equipment to include a N95 mask, gown, gloves and eye protection before contact with the patient. Additionally, place a surgical mask on the patient.

It is further recommended by the EMS Agency that all EMS providers performing suctioning, nebulized treatments, CPAP, bag-mask ventilation, King placement, intubation, and/or chest compressions don PPE as outlined above.

Family Member Transport

Family members should be advised to self-transport unless the patient is a child, there are end-of-life considerations, or in the judgement of the EMS crew a family member should accompany the patient. If a family member is transported, apply a surgical mask during transport.

If you need to request PPE, complete a Medical and Health Resource Request (RR) via this link: http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/dhs/243593_FRM-ResourceRequestMedicalandHealth-20140814.xlsx.

Completed RRs should be emailed to laemsadutyofficer@dhs.lacounty.gov.

Modification in Treatment

Nebulized treatments should not be routinely performed. Initiate only for patients in severe respiratory distress from bronchospasm, asthma or COPD (i.e., retractions and hypoxia). Epinephrine IM may be initiated in known asthma patients with severe respiratory distress. CPAP should also be reserved for severe respiratory distress only.

Patients with asthma and COPD with mild to moderate respiratory distress may be assisted with the use of their own metered-dose inhaler (MDI) - 5 puffs for adults, 2 puffs for pediatrics. Consider deferring treatment to the hospital for patients with mild, and moderate disease without MDI available.

For patients with hypoxia <90% oxygen saturation place on nasal cannula oxygen 2-4 L/min (use minimum flow required to maintain O2 sat ≥90%) and place surgical mask on patient.

EMS Update

Finally, for EMS Update, we will re-evaluate in May for the need to extend the deadline beyond July 1, 2020.

Additional updates will be provided when new information is available or changes are needed to the screening or care of potential COVID-19 patients.

c: Each Supervisorial District
Director, Department of Health Services
Hospital Association of Southern California

Distribution:

CEO's, 9-1-1 Receiving Hospitals
ED Medical Directors, 9-1-1 Receiving Hospitals
Prehospital Care Coordinators, Base Hospitals
Fire Chief, Fire Departments
CEOs, Ambulance Operators
Paramedic Coordinators, EMS Providers
Nurse Educators, EMS Providers