

With the Noval Coronavirus illness growing, we will keep you abreast of this rapidly evolving situation through a new company wide QR code matrix, GMR emailings as well as updates to this publication.

One of the most important aspects of the EMS role during a large scale emerging infectious disease event is rapid identification of patients that may have the illness but need further confirmatory testing. These patients are labeled a Person Under Investigation, or PUI. The CDC has established the following three criteria to identify a PUI:

Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)

**AND**

Any person, including healthcare workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset.

Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)

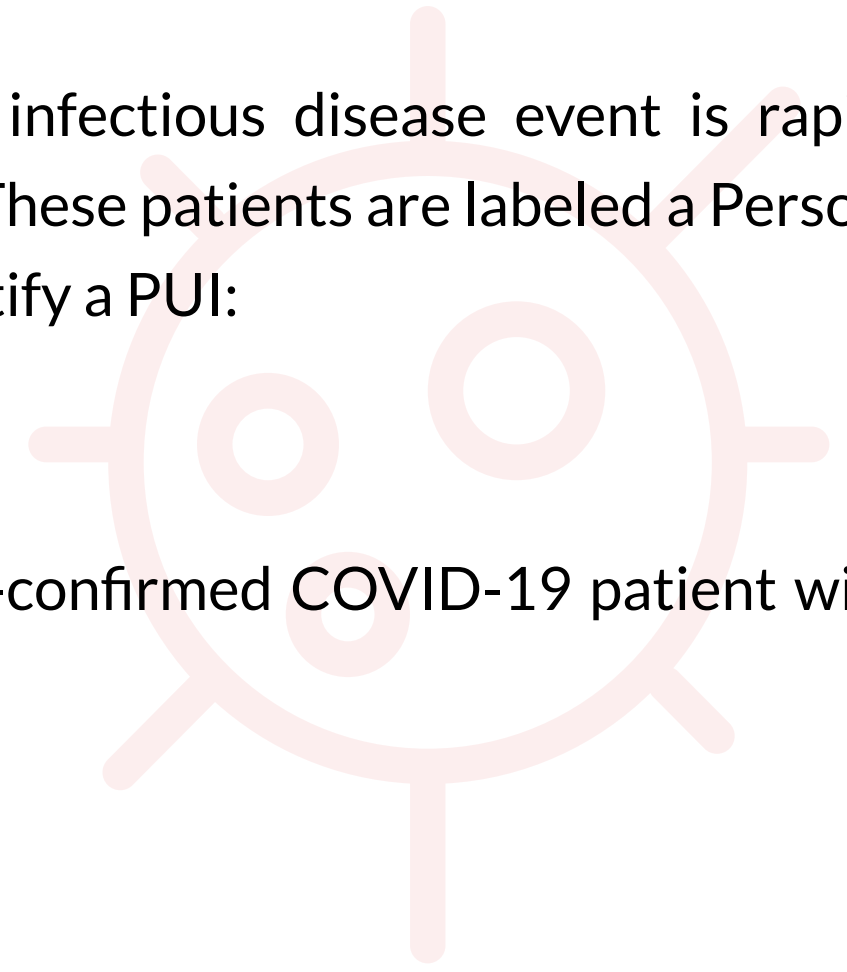
**AND**

A history of travel from affected geographic areas (See below) within 14 days of symptom onset.

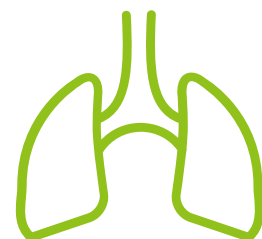
Fever with severe acute community acquired lower respiratory illness (e.g. pneumonia, ARDS) requiring ICU care without alternative explanatory diagnosis.

**AND**

No source of exposure has been identified.



**Fever**



**Shortness of  
breath**



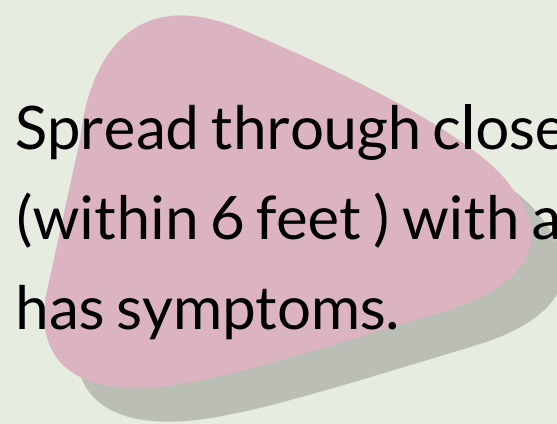
**Cough**

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases 2/29/20, County of Los Angeles Public Health Understanding Coronaviruses and Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) 3/3/20, Global Medical Response, COVID-19 Guidelines for Preparation & Response Rev. March 4, 2020 and County of Los Angeles Public Health Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Clinician Check List: Evaluating Patients who may have COVID-19, 3/9/20.

### How do Coronaviruses spread?



Respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.



Spread through close personal contact (within 6 feet ) with an infected person who has symptoms.

County of Los Angeles Public Health Understanding Coronaviruses and Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) 3/3/20 and CDC Transmission of Coronavirus Disease 3/10/20.

### What to do for a patient with a Person Under Investigation (PUI)



Place a surgical mask on the patient AND



Ask about travel to China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and/or South Korea within the past 14 days or close contact with someone under investigation for COVID-19

If patient's history shows risk of COVID-19, take the precautions described on page 2.

Notify the receiving hospital as soon as possible.

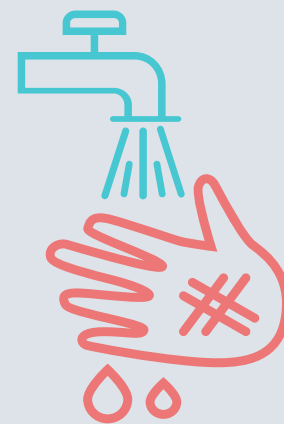
County of Los Angeles Public Health (FAQs) for Emergency Medical Services 2/7/20, (FAQs) for Providers and Healthcare Facilities 2/4/20, and County of Los Angeles Public Health Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Clinician Check List: Evaluating Patients who may have COVID-19, 3/9/20.

# Weekly Update

## How do I protect myself?

Adhere to standard, contact, and airborne precautions including the use of eye protection (e.g., N-95 respirator, gown, gloves, and goggles or a face shield). 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 surgical mask (not N95) is on the patient. A surgical mask should be worn by the patient for source control. If a nasal cannula is in place, a mask should be worn over the nasal cannula. Alternatively, an oxygen mask can be used if clinically indicated. During transport, limit the number of providers in the patient compartment to essential personnel to minimize possible exposures.

Perform hand hygiene before and after all patient contact, contact with all potentially infectious materials, and before putting on and removing PPE including gloves. Wash with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, or if no hand wash station is available, use alcohol based sanitizer.



County of Los Angeles Public Health (FAQs) for Emergency Medical Services 2/7/20, County of Los Angeles Public Health Personal Protective Equipment for 2019-Novel Coronavirus 2/15/20, CDC Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Steps to Prevent Illness 3/10/20, and Global Medical Response COVID-19 Guidelines for Preparation & Response revision March 4, 2020.

All caregivers will be allotted a 30 minute period for deep cleaning of your ambulance. Ideally, this should be done at shift trade when call volume is at its lowest. This will ensure that all ambulances have been thoroughly decontaminated on a daily cycle. If cleaning is interrupted due to emergency activity, it should be completed at the next earliest interval. Follow SOP 301.5 for detailed instructions. Currently, the only approved disinfectant cleaner is Pro-Tech RTU or a bleach/water solution. Dry times for both solutions is 10 minutes. If you utilize the bleach/water options, you must contact your field supervisor prior to using to ensure the mix is done properly and the bottle is properly labeled.

After transporting a PUI/confirmed COVID-19 patient, in addition to following SOP 301.5 for decontamination procedures, leave the rear doors open after exiting the ambulance to allow for sufficient air changes to remove potentially infectious particles. The time to complete transfer of the patient to the receiving facility and complete all documentation should provide sufficient air changes.

## Contaminated Linens/Uniforms

Contaminated linens/uniforms known to be or visibly contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious material will be cleaned at a McCormick Ambulance facility or through an appropriate vendor contracted service.

- Use gloves & face shields/goggles when laundering linens or uniforms contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- Place contaminated linens or uniforms in isolation bag for laundering. (Note: Do not use red biohazard bag for linen unless intended for permanent disposal.
- Clean washer and dryer handles and surfaces according to proper cleaning and disinfection procedures after contact with items or contaminated hands/gloves.
- Doff PPE according to doffing procedures.
- Wash hands.

Global Medical Response COVID-19 Guidelines for Preparation & Response revision March 4, 2020.

Uniforms not visibly contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials may be laundered normally at home.

## Keep updated

LA County Department of Public Health: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/nCorona2019.htm>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

You Tube (Corona Virus COVID-19): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeP-BO6lQ4M&feature=youtu.be>