Interim EMS Preparedness Checklist for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

All Emergency Medical Services Agencies should be prepared to evaluate patients for new and emerging infectious disease threats such as the 2019 Novel Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). EMS Agencies should begin preparing now by reviewing protocols, policies and procedures applicable for responding to emerging infectious disease/highly infectious disease.

The following checklist highlights some key areas for EMS Agencies to consider in preparation for response to 2019-nCoV. The checklist format is not intended to set forth mandatory requirements or establish national standards.

- Monitor the situation at CDC’s 2019-nCoV website, North Carolina Division of Public Health website, and your local health department.
- Ensure agency infection control policies are consistent with the CDC’s 2019-nCoV infection prevention guidance.
- Review protocols, policies and procedures for rapidly implementing appropriate infection prevention practices for potential 2019-nCoV.
  - For example:
    - Placement of necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) for responders within all prehospital provider response vehicles and initial response bags
    - Proper donning and doffing of personal protective equipment
    - Updating infection prevention training for employees
- Review hand hygiene policies and supplies (e.g., accessible alcohol-based hand rub).
- Review supplies of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE):
  - NIOSH-approved respirator such as an N-95 respirator or Positive Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR)
  - Surgical Masks
  - Eye protection (e.g. goggles)
  - Isolation Gowns
  - Patient Exam Gloves
- Ensure prehospital providers who will provide patient care have been medically cleared, fit-tested, and trained for respirator use.
- Review policies and procedures for screening and work restrictions for exposed or ill providers including ensuring that they have ready access, including via telephone, to medical consultation.
- Provide education and training to prehospital providers regarding 2019-nCoV diagnosis, how to limit exposures, appropriate PPE use, and effective communication with receiving healthcare facilities, sick leave policies, and how and to whom suspected 2019-nCoV cases should be reported within your agency along with procedures to take following unprotected exposures (e.g. not wearing recommended PPE).
- Review plans for implementation of surge capacity procedures and management of scarce resources.
- Review supplies of appropriate cleaning and disinfection products (e.g. EPA-registered disinfectant appropriate for MERS-CoV or coronavirus in healthcare settings).

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Updated: 1/28/2020