



## EMS Agency Preparedness Checklist for COVID-19

All Emergency Medical Services Agencies should be prepared to evaluate patients for new and emerging infectious disease threats such as COVID-19. 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 COVID-19. The checklist format is not intended to set forth mandatory requirements or establish national standards.

- Monitor the situation at CDC's COVID-19 [website](#), North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services [website](#), and your [local health department](#).
- Ensure agency infection control policies are consistent with the CDC's [COVID-19 infection prevention guidance](#).
- Review protocols, policies and procedures for rapidly implementing appropriate infection prevention practices for potential COVID-19.
  - 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) – necessary for procedures creating respiratory aerosols (e.g. nebulizers, intubations etc.)
  - Surgical Masks
  - Eye protection (e.g. goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face)
  - Isolation Gowns
  - Patient Exam Gloves (single pair or disposable 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 COVID-19 diagnosis, how to limit exposures, appropriate PPE use, and effective communication with receiving healthcare facilities, sick leave policies, and how and to whom suspected COVID-19 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 coronavirus in healthcare settings).