

Polk County Guidance for EMS Providers with Potential COVID-19 Exposure (Revised 4/8/2020)

This guidance has been developed in conjunction with Central Iowa EMS Directors and the Polk County Health Department, and Polk County Medical Coordination Center

****This specific guidance is for POLK County EMS Agencies, services in other counties should revise with their local county information.**

EMS responders have been exposed to a potential or confirmed COVID-19 patient should follow this reporting procedure:

Definitions:

Exposure: Contact with diagnosed or suspect COVID-19 patient and proper PPE was not utilized

Non-Exposure: Proper PPE was utilized during patient contact

Proper PPE for COVID-19: Face mask or N95 mask, eye protection, gloves and gown or Tyvek suit

(Note – if EMS provider was using appropriate PPE to include facemask, eye protection, gown and gloves, then an airborne or contact exposure has not occurred.)

Patient is Transported and Exposure Occurred:

1. Notify the receiving hospital Emergency Department the patient was transported of the potential exposure.
2. Complete the “**Report of Exposure to HIV or Other Infectious Disease Form**” with the details of the exposure.
3. Submit the completed form to the ED Shift Supervisor or Charge Nurse.
 - a. The Infection Control Team at the receiving hospital will process the form and provide follow-up.
4. Notify the Infection Control Officer for your agency of the potential exposure.
5. Follow agency protocols and follow IDPH Essential Services Personnel Guidance (see link on Page 2).
6. ****Polk County Health Department Communicable Disease official** will notify the Service Director when a positive patient transport is made known to Polk County Health Department Communicable Disease Team.

Patient is Transported and Non-Exposure Occurred:

1. No reporting is required.
2. Follow agency PCR Documentation requirements.

Patient is Not Transported and Exposure Occurred:

1. Complete the “**Report of Exposure to HIV or Other Infectious Disease Form**” with the details of the exposure.
2. Include the source patient contact information on Page 3 of the form.
3. Notify the Infection Control Officer for your agency of the potential exposure and provide them with the form
4. Follow agency protocols and follow IDPH Essential Services Personnel Guidance (see link on Page 2).
5. ****Infection Control Officer** will transmit the **completed form to Polk County Health Department – Communicable Disease Team** to initiate reporting process and follow-up.
 - a. FAX to: (515) 323-5245
Or
 - b. Secure email to CDTeam@polkcountyiowa.gov
6. **** Polk County Public Health Communicable Disease official** will follow-up with Service Director.

Patient is not transported and Non-Exposure Occurred:

1. No reporting is required.
2. Follow agency PCR standards to document patient contact and PPE that was utilized.

Patient Transport Occurs – No Exposure Reported – Patient Tests Positive for COVID-19

1. **Polk County Health Department Communicable Disease official will notify the Service Director when a positive patient transport is made known to Polk County Health Department Communicable Disease Team.
2. Agency EMS director will research the call to determine if proper PPE was utilized.
 - a. Follow agency protocols and follow IDPH Essential Services Personnel Guidance (see link on Page 2).
 - b. If proper PPE was utilized, no exposure occurred, document positive test results as an addendum to the patients PCR.
3. Agency EMS director notifies the fire department involved and the fire department will notify any law enforcement agency that was on scene and had patient contact. If no FD involvement occurred, the agency EMS will notify law enforcement.

WORK GUIDANCE: Follow guidance provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health document “Isolation Guidance for Essential Services Personnel” issued on 3/17/2020 at the following link:

<https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Essential-Services-Personnel>

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Potential Exposure Reporting Algorithm

