**Limiting Exposures in the Station**

**Created by the CIEMSD, March 27, 2019**

Fire/EMS personnel are permitted to work even after they have been exposed to COVID-19. This is true whether the possible exposure occurred on or off the job. Fire/EMS personnel are expected to work unless they are symptomatic or have a fever greater than 100.4. As community spread of the virus continues its likely more Fire/EMS personnel who have been exposed will be at work in stations. Below are guidelines for exercising social distancing in the station.

1. Make sure all personnel are being screened for symptoms/temperature as they come on shift and depart.
2. Take steps to keep crews isolated from the public, and each other. Avoid crews visiting other stations, and avoid on- and off-duty crews co-mingling. This includes minimizing contact between emergency crews and administrative personnel.
3. If in-station gathering is necessary, designate 6’ separations (tape marks on the floor, every other chair, etc.)
4. Evaluate daily tasks to determine which can actually be done singly as opposed to as a crew or team (i.e. truck checks).
5. Ensure enhanced station hygiene. Clean/disinfect twice per day. Include daily cleaning of personal spaces (bunk rooms).
6. No “close quarters” training inside (i.e. EMS skills). Outside training is ok, provided training is limited to station or crew and social distancing is practiced.
7. Avoid having personnel close gather in traditional spaces, such as everyone sitting around the kitchen table or gathering in the report/alarm room.
8. Encourage personnel to isolate during the day. Encourage them to bring items which they can do on their own (personal laptops, books, etc.)
9. Have exposed personnel wear a surgical mask when they are in contact with fellow station/crew personnel.

There is no clear guidance on the level or personal protection Fire/EMS personnel need to wear when not in contact with a patient. These guidelines were developed to help enhance social distancing. Current COVID-19 Guidance for Healthcare Workers state there is not identifiable risk for health workers who are only briefly exposed to COVID-19 positive patients (briefly in the same room, passing in the hall, etc.) Following these guidelines will limit potential exposure in the station.