



San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

SAFETY MESSAGE

Div/Sec: All Personnel	Issue/Incident: Daily COVID-19 Update 44
Date: April 28, 2020	



INCIDENT STATISTICS:

- Total Incidents, Last 24 Hours: 478
- Daily Staffing Level: Full Staffing
- COVID-19 DICO Responses, Last 24 Hours: 9

Changes to Medical Triage of COVID-Incidents-Dispatch Protocol: Suspected COVID-19

- Effective Tuesday, April 28, 2020, certain calls triaged through Metro will follow a revised protocol known as “Card 36” or the “Suspected COVID 19” protocol card.
 - Designed to rapidly identify COVID affected patients and accelerate the dispatch triage process.
 - The Problem/Nature “Suspected COVID 19” will be an indicator that the call type was triaged under this new protocol.
 - The dispatcher may add additional notes to the specific complaint within the call type.
 - Some calls may triage out to other call types (i.e., non-COVID related symptoms, immediate life threats). This does **NOT** mean the call is not COVID related.
 - Continue to treat calls with careful consideration for COVID related illness (i.e., call triaged out of Card 36 due to questioning).

Updated & New Documents:

- **SDFD PPE Photos & Restocking 04.27.2020**
 - CPAP with Filter and In-Line Nebulizer (Option #1 – Limited Availability)
 - CPAP with Filter and In-Line Nebulizer (Incorrect – DO NOT USE)
 - N95/N100 Re-Use Procedures
 - N95/N100 Collection, Decontamination, and Reuse Information
- **DICO Frequently Asked Questions**

Behavioral Wellness update – Dr. Dave Bond

- [Focus' YouTube Channel](#)
- This is a short informational video to share at home
 - [Helping our kids \(and ourselves\) express emotions and work with uncertainty](#)

County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency:

- Effective April 27, 2020, the following will be allowed in the oceans and bays: swimming, surfing, paddle boarding, and kayaking. Recreational boating is still banned. Each city is responsible for deciding whether to open its beaches. Beach parking lots need to remain closed.
- Starting May 1, the County is hoping to relax more restrictions for parks and golf courses if they can enforce social distancing.

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Assistant Chief
Emergency Operations

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Battalion Chief
Health & Safety Officer

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- Beginning May 1, everyone must wear face coverings anywhere in public if they come within 6 feet of another person.

Updated list of COVID-19 symptoms per the CDC: symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus, added symptoms are highlighted.

- Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath, **Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle Pain, Headache, Sore Throat and New loss of taste or smell**

Resuming Wellness Physical Exams: Anticipated to return on May 11, 2020, with additional protocols in place to protect personnel.

Additional Safety Equipment: Long Staffed Personnel (Bulletin 20-057)

- SCBA harnesses shall be stored in the engineer's compartment **without** an air cylinder attached – **Do NOT store SCBAs inside the cab of the apparatus.**

Reminder: N95/N100 Collection, Decontamination, and Reuse

- N95/N100 masks must be identified with your first initial, last name, permanent station/division with a permanent marker on the bottom of the mask.



- N95/N100 masks **NOT** grossly contaminated will be placed into a small individual paper bag then placed into a paper bag located on every ambulance.
 - Fold or roll the small individual bag closed.
 - Place your small individual bag in the larger paper bag (aka collection bag) on ambulances. These are typically located in the passenger-side rear compartment.
 - Personnel are responsible for securing their own mask in the ambulance's collection bag before leaving the scene.
 - Continue the 1 for 1 exchange with the accompanying AMR ambulance
- An FDA approved method of Hydrogen Peroxide Vapors shall be used to decontaminate masks collected by AMR through SDFD Logistics.

Lessons Learned:

- Continue to educate other agencies on scene regarding the appropriate level of PPE so that they are aware of potential exposures.
- Always consider the possibility of family members or bystanders to be symptomatic when entering a scene. As a crew, come up with a plan on implementing physical distancing from additional bystanders and how to address multiple patients.

“Promoting Safe and Healthy Lives”

San Diego Fire-Rescue

Incident Management Team



DICO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When should I contact ECDC to have the DICO paged?

- Whenever a company officer believes a member of the crew may have been exposed to COVID-19. A DICO representative will promptly contact you on the Captain's cell phone to help determine this, and will make recommendations for paperwork and decontamination.
- If an employee is feeling ill while at work or at home. A DICO representative will contact you at the number provided and will give directions for what to do next.
- On duty contact ECDC via radio.
- Off duty call the ECDC BC at 619-550-9396.
- If no response from DICO after 10 minutes, call the ECDC BC.

When should I complete a San Diego County Communicable Disease Exposure Reporting Form?

- When directed by the DICO representative over the phone. Only the personnel determined by the DICO to be exposed need to have their name on the form.

What do I do with the Communicable Disease Exposure Reporting Form?

- Complete the original copy with known information while on scene and before the ambulance transports (legible and include FS#).
- Take a photo of the completed form (must be a clear, complete and legible photo) and text or email it to the DICO representative who contacted you.
- The form should include the names of all exposed personnel, including AMR, SDPD, lifeguards or other responders at scene.
- Send the original copy of the exposure reporting form with the patient to the hospital.
 - If you are unable to do this (i.e., moderate/acute status patient with short scene time), work through your chain of command to get the original form to the hospital and attached to the patient ASAP.
 - This may mean, per your Battalion Chief, the company drives the form to the hospital right away.

What do crews do with the completed Communicable Disease Exposure Report on patient who is not transported (AMA, 11-44, etc.)? Where should the document go?

- The County does not collect Communicable Disease Exposure Report forms for patients who are not transported to the hospital (AMA, 11-44, etc.). However, the San Diego Fire-Rescue's Infection Control Group collects them. If a Company Officer believes a patient who was not transported may

have COVID-19, the DICO should be contacted and the CDE form photographed and sent to the calling DICO rep via attachment to a text message or email.

The Communicable Disease Exposure Report only allows you to write in 4 crew members on the sheet. What is best practice for long staffed personnel or when the amount of people you need to enter exceeds 4 people?

- There is space on the form directly above the “Personnel Exposed” line, where the 5th person’s name and other info can be hand written. The Company Officer can also choose to add additional forms when there are more than 4 exposed personnel on scene (i.e. SDPD officers, lifeguards, etc.).

When should I complete a Minor Injury Report (RM-1568)?

- If you have submitted a Communicable Disease Exposure Reporting Form, a Minor Injury Report should also be completed for each person who was reported as exposed.
- Submit the completed Minor Injury Report to **Medical Desk HQ MS604**.
 - Our SDFD Medical Desk Representative (Addy Zertuche) processes and maintains the hard copy in the employee’s medical file.
 - To ensure delivery, a copy can also be emailed to azertuche@sandiego.gov
 - DO NOT send copies to Risk Management (Reference Bulletin 19-02)
 - The Minor Injury Report should **NOT** be emailed to the DICO representative.

If it is determined that an exposure has occurred, when will we learn if our transported patients have tested positive for COVID-19?

- You will be contacted by a member of the Isolation Group as soon as the patient’s test results are available. This may take up to 7 days, depending on the hospital.

If our patient has been determined to be a Non-Exposure, when will we learn if they have tested positive for COVID-19?

- SDFD does not follow up on the test status of patients who are determined to be Non-Exposures, even if the patient appears to be symptomatic of COVID-19.
- Occasionally, hospitals report the COVID-19 test status to us on their own. If this happens, you will be contacted by a member of the Isolation Group as soon as the results are reported to us.

If our patient was not transported to the hospital (AMA, 11-44 on scene, elopements), when will we learn if they have tested positive for COVID-19?

- SDFD is not able to follow up on the test status of patients who are not transported to the hospital.
- If dead on scene, the SD County Medical Examiner’s Office may do a COVID-19 test at their own discretion.
- On the rare occasion that we are notified of post-mortem COVID-19 test status by the Medical Examiner’s office, you will be contacted by a member of the Isolation Group as soon as the results are reported to us.



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Health & Safety Office**

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- If you have more than one patient that is a potential exposure for the crew, a separate county exposure report and minor injury should be filled out.

PERSONNEL STATUS:

PERSONNEL STATUS	FIRE		LG		NON-SWORN		AMR	
	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE						
Number Currently in Isolation (Symptomatic)	1		0		1		5	
Number of DICO Confirmed Exposures (CDC Med/High)	0	95	0	24	0	0	0	51
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Positive (+)	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Negative (-)	0	36	0	15	0	2	0	10
Number of Presumptive COVID-19 Diagnosis	1	41	0	20	0	3	0	0

*****Route any questions, comments, or concerns through your normal chain of command.*****



COVID-19 Update
4/28/2020

Supervisors:

Robert Spangler (MS71)
John McCormack (MS72)

Number of Cases (Global)
3,074,948

Number of Cases (US)
994,625

Number of Cases (CA):
45,219

Number of Cases (San Diego):
3,141

Helpful Links:

[GMR Vehicle Decon Policy](#)

[GMR Fogger Decon Video](#)

[On Duty Temperature Checks](#)

[GMR Coronavirus](#)

[CA Public Health COVID-19](#)

[SDAPP - COVID 19](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

[Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Map](#)

[SD Co COVID19 Dashboard](#)

[GMR COVID Medical Assessment Tool \(MAST\)](#)

SDFD Operational COVID Docs:



DO NOT COME TO WORK IF YOU HAVE COVID SYMPTOMS

- If symptomatic, please call off to a supervisor, we do not wish to infect patients, co-workers or their families
- COVID-19 symptoms per CDC: Fever, cough, SOB, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste/smell

TargetSolutions:

- Childcare survey for first responders added, due 5/6

Personal Protective Equipment Guideline:

- Facial coverings are to be used for duration of your shift
- Surgical mask, gloves and issued goggles required on all calls
 - Surgical masks on all EMS patients as tolerated
 - Upgrade to N95 and gown if COVID suspected

N95/N100 FFR Collection for Reuse:

- Write your name on front bottom of FFR before use. This is to ensure you get your mask back after decontamination
 - i.e., J. McCormack – MS72A - AMR
- Reuse FFR as normal, per current practice
 - After high-risk procedure, instead of discarding mask, place FFR mask in sandwich size bag
 - Place small bag into larger mask bag for collection
- When bag is full, drop off at 42A, and get a new bag and clip
- Keep bag in outside compartment with trauma bag

General:

- Dispatch is implementing a Problem/Nature "Suspected COVID 19", call may have additional notes to the complaint
 - May triage out as another complaint, this does **NOT** mean the call is not COVID 19 related, be aware!
- Station units are being asked to please leave your uniforms at station and arrive/leave in plain clothes
- Upgraded infographic on how to use HEPA filters
- Primary decontamination of ambulance - Pro-Tek RTU spray
 - Fogger is adjunctive, can be used once per day
- Remember to do your twice daily on-duty temperature checks, link is on your iPad and checks are mandatory

Supplies:

- If needed you can pick up cloth masks and goggles from 42A
- HEPA filters are in, make sure your rig has some
- Ensure your ambulance has bags for FFR collection
- Keep Pro-Tek RTU bottle if empty, can refill bottle at 42A