BULLETIN

NO: 20-032

DATE: February 28, 2020

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Chris Kahn, M.D., EMS Medical Director
            Roger M. Fisher, Deputy Fire Chief, Emergency Command & Data Center

SUBJECT: Medical Triage Screening by ECDC for Specific Call Types (Updated)

For the past several weeks, ECDC has been utilizing the "Surveillance Mode" feature of the Emerging Infectious Disease Tool which adds specific questions to the call triage process (refer to BULLETIN 20-018 dated February 3, 2020). As new information becomes available from the CDC regarding COVID-19, we have been evaluating it to ensure that we are up to date on the latest recommendations regarding screening, PPE, and other aspects of managing this disease. This week, the CDC updated their list of affected geographic areas with widespread or sustained community transmission to add Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea; China also remains on the list.

It is likely that other countries will be added on a fairly frequent basis. Accordingly, our dispatch screening process is being modified. Instead of asking only about travel to China or Southeast Asia, we will be asking about all travel outside of the United States. Any such travel will be noted in the CAD notes within the EIDS (Emerging Infectious Disease Screening) tool. If any of the countries noted within that item are on the CDC's Affected Geographic Areas list, an additional line will be added to CAD notes, reading: **"*** COVID-19 AFFECTED GEOGRAPHIC AREA IDENTIFIED ***"**. Please be sure to follow all PPE and other safety guidance promulgated by the Health and Safety Officer and reiterated from previous bulletins (briefly: gloves, gown, N-95 or higher respirator, and goggles or faceshield on you, AND a surgical mask on the patient).

As a reminder, it is always good practice to wear respiratory protection when responding to or treating any patient with coughing, sneezing, or other production of respiratory droplets. Any questions regarding this communication can be forwarded through your chain of command.