



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

## SAFETY MESSAGE

Div/Sec: All Personnel

Date: April 13, 2020

Issue: Daily COVID-19 Update 29



**Colin Stowell**  
Fire Chief

**Chris Webber**  
Assistant Chief  
Emergency  
Operations

**David Picone**  
Battalion Chief  
Health & Safety  
Officer

**Willy Melendez**  
Safety Officer  
San Diego  
Incident  
Management  
Team

**Brandon Green**  
Operations  
Manager, AMR,  
City of San Diego

**George Duardo**  
Vice-President  
San Diego  
Firefighters  
Local 145

**Chris Vanos**  
Chief Steward  
Teamsters Local  
911

**Anthony J. Sorci**  
President  
San Diego  
Association of  
Prehospital  
Professionals

### INCIDENT STATISTICS:

- Total Incidents, Last 24 Hours: **484**
- Daily Staffing Level: **Full Staffing**
- COVID-19 DICO Responses, Last 24 Hours: **11**

### **Important Reminder:**

- **Replace your reusable cloth mask with the appropriate respirator (i.e., N95/N100) prior to patient contact.**
- **Check your crew members prior to patient contact to ensure the appropriate PPE is donned every time.**

**COVID-19 PPE Doffing Procedures for Turnouts:** Demonstrates how to properly doff turnout gear that has been exposed to a suspected or known COVID-19 patient.

- [Doffing Turnouts - Off Air](#)
- [Doffing Turnouts - On Air](#)
- [Separating equipment from turnouts and 3<sup>rd</sup> party laundering](#)

### **PPE Pictograph “COVID Medical Aid Zones”:**

- Document is in the COVID-19 folder in Target Solutions to assist you in determining the level of PPE, identifying tasks, and the number of personnel within the three zones of a medical aid.

### **Training is an approved outside activity while taking the following into consideration:**

- All outside training shall be conducted at NTC and coordinated through your respective Battalion Chief. All training requests shall be emailed to [SDFDTrainingDivision@sandiego.gov](mailto:SDFDTrainingDivision@sandiego.gov) and coordinated by the training staff on the Outlook Training Calendar.
- All training activities at NTC will be limited to outside areas and crews shall follow all COVID-19 best practices to ensure the health and safety of personnel.
  - Maintain 6ft distance when proctoring and evaluating drills
  - Continue to utilize face covering practices as directed in the OOTC
  - Clean SCBA masks after each use
  - Ensure [SCBA regulators are properly disinfected](#) with *Fresh Gear*, after each use
  - Wipe down tools and equipment, after each use
  - Handwashing before, during and after training exercises
- Always be cognizant of public perception.
- Access to the training office will be limited to training staff.
- To compile and share any best practices when training with your crews, please email IST Coordinator Captain Jeff Williams at [WilliamsJD@sandiego.gov](mailto:WilliamsJD@sandiego.gov) with your ideas.



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

## SAFETY MESSAGE

### Lessons Learned:

- Assume that all patients may have COVID-19 and place a surgical mask on them immediately, even if there are no indicators of COVID-19 from the dispatch notes or from initial information given by family/bystanders at the scene.
- Consider standing back until necessary information is gathered by the call taker when you have a short response time.
- A language barrier should be a watch out situation due to the potential of incomplete information from ECDC and the ability to obtain information from the patient.
- Prioritize taking a temperature reading prior to physically moving a patient.
- Family stated to members of a crew that they believed the patient would have not been treated if they told ECDC “Yes” to any of the COVID questions.
  - Realize that it may be difficult for ECDC to obtain relevant COVID information.
- For your situational awareness, calls originating from SDPD’s dispatch (that are not transferred over to ECDC) may have missing information.
  - These calls are not necessarily triaged for COVID-19.
- Utilization of masks:
  - N95/N100 is the preferred mask, especially for any aerosolized procedures.
  - With several types of masks available it is important to take the time to ensure you are not wearing a department issued cloth reusable mask on emergency responses.
  - Check your partner before conducting patient assessment and treatments.
- If an exposure report is required on an 11-44, the DICO will process the report.
  - It does not need to go through PD or the Medical Examiner.
  - The Health and Safety Office will conduct any follow up.
- Advise incoming responding crews if additional PPE is required prior to their entering of the scene.

### PERSONNEL STATUS:

PERSONNEL STATUS	FIRE		LG		NON-SWORN		AMR	
	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE
Number Currently in Isolation (Symptomatic)	4		0		0		2	
Number of DICO Confirmed Exposures (CDC Med/High)	0	84	0	24	0	0	0	37
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Positive (+)	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Negative (-)	0	32	0	13	0	1	0	5
Number of Presumptive COVID-19 Diagnosis	0	35	0	18	0	2	0	0

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

“Promoting Safe and Healthy Lives”



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

## SAFETY MESSAGE

Div/Sec: All Personnel

Date: April 12, 2020

Issue: Daily COVID-19 Update 28



**Colin Stowell**  
Fire Chief

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Emergency  
Operations

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Teamsters Local  
911

**Anthony J. Sorci**  
President  
San Diego  
Association of  
Prehospital  
Professionals

### INCIDENT STATISTICS:

- Total Incidents, Last 24 Hours: **482**
- Daily Staffing Level: **Full Staffing**
- COVID-19 DICO Responses, Last 24 Hours: **11**

### **Important Reminder:**

- **Replace your reusable cloth mask with the appropriate respirator (i.e., N95/N100) prior to patient contact.**
- **Check your crew members prior to patient contact to ensure the appropriate PPE is donned every time.**

### PPE Pictograph “COVID Medical Aid Zones”:

- Please reference the pictograph to assist you in determining the level of PPE, tasks and the number of personnel within the three zones of a medical aid.
- Document is also located in the COVID-19 folder in Target Solutions.

### [COVID-19 Positive Cases by Zip Code Dashboard](#)

**DO NOT USE** cleaning products in any fashion not specified on the product label. Please ensure you read the product instructions prior to use, understand the hazards associated with the product and the appropriate PPE is utilized.

### Lessons Learned:

- **Common occurrence/repeating lesson learned:**
  - Assume that all patients may have COVID-19 and place a surgical mask on them immediately, even if there are no indicators of COVID-19 from the dispatch notes or from initial information given by family/bystanders at the scene.
    - Consider standing back until necessary information is gathered by the call taker when you have a short response time.
  - Family stated to members of a crew that they believed the patient would have not been treated if they told ECDC “Yes” to any of the COVID questions.
  - Realize that it may be difficult for ECDC to obtain relevant COVID information.
- For your situational awareness, calls originating from SDPD’s dispatch (that are not transferred over to ECDC) may have missing information.
  - These calls are not necessarily triaged for COVID-19.
- Remember to utilize an in line Hepa-Filter with a BVM, prior to placing an advanced airway.



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

## SAFETY MESSAGE

- Utilization of masks:
  - N95/N100 is the preferred mask, especially for any aerosolized procedures.
  - With several types of masks available it is important to take the time to ensure you are not wearing a department issued cloth reusable mask on emergency responses.
  - Check your partner before conducting patient assessment and treatments.
- If an exposure report is required on an 11-44, the DICO will process the report.
  - It does not need to go through PD or the Medical Examiner.
  - The Health and Safety Office will conduct any follow up.
- Several low-level exposures have occurred due to crew members conducting patient assessments without gowns.
  - The level of PPE must always be your priority prior to approaching a patient.
- If you are within 6 feet of a known or suspected COVID-19 patient you should be wearing a gown. Not wearing a gown is categorized as a low-level exposure by the CDC and San Diego County EMS.
- Advise incoming responding crews if additional PPE is required prior to their entering of the scene.

### PERSONNEL STATUS:

PERSONNEL STATUS	FIRE		LG		NON-SWORN		AMR	
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**\*\*\*Route any questions, comments, or concerns through your normal chain of command.\*\*\***

“Promoting Safe and Healthy Lives”



COVID-19 Update  
4/13/2020

**Supervisors:**

Robert Spangler (MS71)  
John McCormack (MS72)

**Number of Cases (Global)**  
1,872,073

**Number of Cases (US)**  
558,999

**Number of Cases (CA):**  
23,324

**Number of Cases (San Diego):**  
1,804

**Helpful Links:**

[GMR Vehicle Decon Policy](#)

[GMR Fogger Decon Video](#)

[GMR Coronavirus](#)

[CA Public Health COVID-19](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

[Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Map](#)

[SDAPP Homepage](#)

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

**Check iPad COVID-19 Link for latest PPE and Safety Information**

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

**Personal Protective Equipment Guideline:**

- Isolation kit with gown for all high-risk procedures
  - Call supervisor for fogger decontamination
- Facial coverings are to be used for duration of your shift
  - Must wear at all times unless in station in your dorm
  - Re-usable cloth masks available at 42A

**N95/N100 FFR Collection for Reuse:**

- SDFD purchased a Hydrogen Peroxide vapor sanitization machine for FFR decontamination
  - Machine will not be delivered for about a month
  - Bags will be distributed tomorrow to start collecting FFRs for storage, anticipating more FFR shortages
  - Masks will only be sanitized if unable to get new FFRs

**S-415(a):**

- Medic units only, per county policy paramedic assessment
- Please complete TargetSolutions training ASAP

**Safety Message:**

- Wear surgical mask, goggles and gloves on all calls
  - All patients receive a surgical mask if tolerated
  - N95/N100 for high risk patients and skills

**Hospital Offload Changes:**

- Sharp Memorial will be conducting transfer of care in their tent outside the ED. Please check to make sure they can take you in the tent before pulling your patient out of your ambulance. If they get backed up with multiple ambulances trying to offload at the same time, please wait in your ambulance until they are ready.
- Sharp Grossmont, for suspected COVID patients and those receiving aerosol generating procedures, will be taken in through a different entrance to C Pod. Staff will meet you outside to direct.
- Scripps Mercy has requested closure of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave in front of the ED. The City approved and shut the road down to through traffic. The road is still open to emergency vehicles to pass and park along the sides of the street. Tents are up in the ambulance bay, so they wanted to provide safe parking for us.

County of San Diego  
 Daily Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
 Summary of Cases by Zip Code of Residence



Data are preliminary and subject to change

Data through 4/11/2020, updated 4/12/2020 8:00 AM

Zip Code	Count
91901	1
91902	17
91905	1
91910	48
91911	59
91913	34
91914	9
91915	21
91916	1
91932	10
91935	4
91941	13
91942	27
91945	15
91950	39
91977	39
91978	6
92003	1
92004	1
92007	4
92008	9
92009	17
92010	13
92011	9
92014	13
92019	42
92020	62
92021	59
92024	30
92025	23
92026	10
92027	20
92028	9
92029	12
92037	34
92040	15
92054	9
92056	12
92057	10
92058	8
92061	2
92064	18
92065	10
92066	2
92067	12
92069	11
92071	18
92075	5

Zip Code	Count
92078	14
92081	13
92082	3
92083	10
92084	12
92091	2
92093	4
92101	40
92102	23
92103	72
92104	40
92105	49
92106	9
92107	5
92108	20
92109	29
92110	18
92111	22
92113	45
92114	50
92115	36
92116	36
92117	23
92118	5
92119	12
92120	21
92121	3
92122	15
92123	17
92124	15
92126	33
92127	21
92128	30
92129	19
92130	24
92131	6
92136	3
92139	30
92154	67
92161	2
92173	26
Unknown	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>1804</b>

\*More information may become available as individual case investigations are completed.  
 Zip code is zip code of residence, which may not be location of exposure.

Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Data source: WebCMR Communicable Disease Registry

Prepared by the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch