



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

## SAFETY MESSAGE

Div/Sec: All Personnel

Date: April 12, 2020

Issue: Daily COVID-19 Update 28



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Fire Chief

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Chief Steward  
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911

**Anthony J. Sorci**  
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### 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.



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- 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	
	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)	1	84	0	24	0	0	2	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”