

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 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.

What is considered a positive screen for potential COVID-19?

- A positive screen is any patient with these symptoms or combination of symptoms:
 - Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Or at least **two** of these symptoms:
 - Fever, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, the new loss of taste or smell

What is the difference between an "Encounter" vs. "Exposure"?

- **Encounter:** within 6' of a patient who screens positive for potential COVID-19
 - Full PPE (N100/N95, gown, gloves, and face shield and/or goggles) without a breach
 - Option to document on a Minor Injury Form
 - DICO contact is **NOT** required
- **Exposure:** within 6' of a patient who screens positive for potential COVID-19 and any of the following:
 - Missing any PPE (N100/N95, gown, gloves, or face shield and/or goggles) or a PPE breach.
 - Any aerosolized procedures including suctioning, CPAP, nebulized medications, bag-mask ventilation, advanced airway placement, chest compressions, as well as patients with significant coughing/sneezing.
 - Extensive body contact with a patient (i.e., moving or lifting of a patient).

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 a 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, 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 the 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 handwritten. The Company Officer can also choose to add additional forms when there is more than four 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.