

Navy Fire & Emergency Services Team,

A lot has happened in the past few months since the start of the COVID-19 (previously known as 2019-nCoV) outbreak in Wuhan, China in the Hubei province. In particular, a lot seems to have happened in the past 4 weeks with the outbreak spreading across the United States, Europe, parts of Africa, and Southeast Asia. It seems that almost on a daily, if not hourly basis, new information is becoming available as to the extent of the outbreak and what it means for us as individuals, family members, healthcare providers, first responders, Americans, and global citizens.

A lot of information has been passed along to you already about the current COVID-19 outbreak as it relates to medical treatment and appropriate PPE and contact precautions. We have reviewed all relevant information as it relates to this guidance and concur with everything that has been passed by the CNIC leadership. We continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis and try to identify new trends and best medical practices that are worth disseminating to our dispatchers, first responders, and EMS clinicians.

It may be worth trying to clarify where we are at as of Wednesday, March 11. We will do our best to remain in regular communication with our EMS clinicians and first responders and update these documents as new information becomes available (edits and new details will be added in red). These documents will attempt to address the following:

- What we currently know about COVID-19
- Dispatch guidance
- Handling of patients with COVID-19
- Special considerations for operating within an ambulance
- Reporting and documentation requirements
- Administrative and workplace considerations
- Patient refusal policies
- Unknown details about COVID-19

Lastly, please know that although this document will frequently direct Navy Fire personnel to their local MTF or Public Health Emergency Officers (PHEOs), we are always available to you as your Regionals EMS Medical Directors to answer questions and provide guidance throughout this pandemic.

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