Decision to Transport During COVID-19 Protocol

Purpose: To reduce the number of patients transported to the hospital that are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, who do not require immediate treatment and/or hospitalization. Contact Medical Control as needed.

I. Emergency medical calls related to COVID-19 will likely fit into one of the three following categories
   a. Worried-well: Those who have been exposed to a person suspected of having or confirmed positive for COVID-19 infection.
   b. Acutely ill patients with minor symptoms: Suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection.
   c. Acutely ill patients with severe symptoms: Suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection.

II. Worried-well:
   a. Those patients who report an exposure to a person suspected of having, or confirmed positive for COVID-19 infection, should self-quarantine, assuring they avoid contact with at risk populations, and monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection, per COVID-19 Self Quarantine Treat At Home Patient Guidance. Advise the patient that if they have any further concerns they should contact their primary care physician, 9-1-1, or they may contact the additional resources at the end of the COVID-19 Self Quarantine Treat At Home Patient Guidance.

III. Acutely ill patients with minor symptoms:
   a. Suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, who lack risk factors for developing severe complications, should avoid transport to the hospital, if at all possible. The following signs and symptoms alone do not indicate the need for immediate medical attention and transport:
      i. Body aches
      ii. Sore throat
      iii. Headache
      iv. Fever
      v. Mild nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
   b. If the acutely ill patient complaining of minor symptoms possesses any of the following risk factors, although at higher risk, should be considered eligible for the treatment at home procedure:
      i. Age > 65
      ii. Cardiovascular disease
      iii. COPD
iv. Diabetes  
v. Hypertension  
vi. Immunosuppressed  

**c. Treat at Home Procedure:**

i. Advise patients that patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, presenting with mild symptoms only, and lacking risk factors that they are eligible for Treatment at Home. If acceptable they should: stay home, isolate, rest, hydrate, take comfort measure as needed, and self-monitor. If serious symptoms develop, they should seek immediate medical attention and call 9-1-1. Please leave the COVID-19 Self Quarantine Treat at home Patient Guidance. Advise the patient that should they need 9-1-1 treatment, they should warn the 9-1-1 dispatcher of the possible COVID-19 risk.  

ii. If the patient insists on being transported, they should be transported.  

iii. Advise the patient that by agreeing to the treat at home procedure, they acknowledge that they have received and understand the instructions they have been given and will call 9-1-1 in the event that they develop serious symptoms.  

1. Verbal agreement witnessed by another health care provider will suffice as acknowledgement of agreement to home treatment.  

iv. EMS providers should note in their documentation narrative that the patient was given a complete description of the symptoms associated with severe infection, and that the patient was advised to call 9-1-1 if they developed any of these symptoms.  

1. A list of serious symptoms can be found in this protocol, see list below.  

**IV. Acutely ill patients with severe symptoms:** Suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, should be transported to the closest appropriate hospital. The following signs and symptoms indicate the need for immediate medical attention and transport:  

i. Hypoxia (< 94%)  

ii. Respiratory distress/Shortness of breath  

iii. Chest pain/tightness  

iv. High fever (>101)  

v. Confusion/Altered mental status from normal base line  

vi. Severe nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea  

vii. Signs of severe dehydration or shock, including; syncope, severe dizziness, hypotension
Today, you have been evaluated for the coronavirus (COVID19). Based on our assessment, you do NOT need to go to the hospital at this time, however, you need to self-monitor.

**Self-monitoring** means people should monitor themselves for fever by taking their temperature twice a day and remain alert for cough or difficulty breathing. If you have a fever, cough, or nausea and vomiting during the self-monitoring period, you should self-isolate, limit contact with others (stay at least 6 feet away from others), and seek advice by telephone from a healthcare provider or your local health department to determine whether medical evaluation is needed. **If you develop any of the following symptoms, call 911 immediately** and tell them you are a possible coronavirus patient:

- Respiratory Distress / Shortness of Breath
- Chest Pain / Tightness
- High Fever ≥ 101º
- Confusion / Altered Mental Status from normal base line
- Severe Nausea, Vomiting, or Diarrhea
- Dizziness / Fainting / Low Blood Pressure

**Recommendations to protect yourself and your family members include the following:**

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow, as respiratory droplets are produced when you cough and sneeze.
- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, cell phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

Currently, there is no treatment or vaccine to prevent the coronavirus.

If you have any further concerns contact your primary care physician or:

State of Michigan COVID Hotline 8 am – 5 pm, (888)-535-6136.
2-1-1 or Wayne County Health, Human and Veterans services at (734)-287-7870

Additional information is available at [https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus)