Conventional Response to Potential COVID-19 Outbreak

**Purpose:** To reduce risk of exposure of EMS personnel during the conventional response phase of a COVID-19 outbreak.

I. Requests for EMS should be screened for risks for COVID-19 according to Dispatch Screening Guidelines for COVID-19 Outbreak.

II. Priority one and two responses* who screen for potential COVID-19:
   a. Normal agency response
   b. First unit on scene:
      i. Initial responder(s) enter at minimum level of personnel (if non-transporting and transporting units arrive at the same time, transporting personnel enter scene wearing appropriate PPE, while non-transporting personnel provide support as needed).
      ii. After initial assessment, personnel who have made patient contact request additional (specific) resources, as indicated.

III. Priority three** patients who screen for possible COVID-19:
   a. Initial response by transporting agency ONLY, unless transporting agency delayed by more than 30 minutes.
   b. Transporting personnel make contact wearing appropriate PPE.
   c. After initial assessment, if more resources are needed, personnel request specific necessary resources (e.g., lift assist).

IV. Responses to health facilities (those with licensed health care staff present) with a patient who screens positive for possible COVID-19:
   a. Initial response by transporting agency only unless information indicting clear need for additional personnel (e.g., patient being ventilated).
   b. Minimal personnel enter the scene and assess the patient.
   c. After initial assessment, if more resources are needed, personnel request specific necessary resources.

*Priority one includes patients with potential life-threatening emergencies including, but not limited to, shortness of breath, chest pain, and/or altered mental status. Priority two includes patients with serious illness or injury without immediate life-threatening conditions listed as priority one patients.

**Priority three includes patients with cough and/or sore throat but without other Priority one symptoms.