



# County of El Dorado

## Emergency Medical Services Agency

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### **\*\*\*PARAMEDIC ALERT\*\*\***

**No. 2020-03**

**DATE: March 6, 2020**

**TO: El Dorado County EMS Personnel**  
**FROM: David Brazzel, MD, Medical Director, El Dorado County EMS Agency**

**SUBJECT: Guidance for Assessment / Disposition of Patients with calls concerning COVID-19 potential exposures or symptoms**

If Dispatch calls for an EMS response to a scene with a patient concerned about a possible or known exposure to a person under investigation (PUI) or a person with a lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 test result, then it is advised that only one paramedic enter the scene with the appropriate donning of PPE to assess the patient.

If the patient is primarily concerned of a potential disease exposure, but asymptomatic, then they should be advised to self-quarantine and stay in their own residence. The patient should be provided the appropriate contact information to the El Dorado County Public Health Department Communicable Disease Unit for further assessment if indicated. The Communicable Disease Unit can be reached at 530-621-6320 Mon-Friday, 8am-5pm; after hours and on weekends, 800-901-5789.

If the patient presents with flu-like symptoms that are mild, such as low grade fever, mild cough, or upper respiratory congestion, and are in no acute respiratory distress or complaint of severe illness, then this patient may be also advised to self-quarantine and stay in their own residence. The patient should be provided the appropriate contact information to the El Dorado Public Health Department Communicable Disease Unit for further assessment if indicated.

If patient still requests transport after assessment, EMS provider will proceed with transport to the nearest appropriate destination with notification to ED.

However, if the patient presents with flu-like symptoms, cough, high fever, difficulty breathing, or feels significantly ill or appear toxic, then they should be transported to the nearest appropriate destination emergency department. EMS personnel should pre-don the appropriate PPE, provide a mask for the patient, and pre-alert the destination ED so that the hospital personnel may prepare in advance of your arrival.

Lastly, emergency medical dispatch protocols for Emerging Infectious Disease will be revised to include any travel outside of the United States.

As a reminder, the El Dorado County EMS Agency has the following protocols in place that may be helpful references:

- Pandemic Influenza  
(<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/EMS/field%20policies/Documents/Pandemic%20Influenza%202018.pdf>)
- Exposure Determination, Treatment and Reporting  
(<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/EMS/field%20policies/Documents/Exposure%20Determination,%20Treatment%20and%20Reporting%202019.pdf>)

The following are links to additional information on Coronavirus

- Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators  
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirator-supply-strategies.html>)
- CDC Interim Guidance for EMS Systems and 911 PSAPs for Covid-19 in the United States (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>)
- El Dorado County Public Health Coronavirus Webpage  
(<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/hhsa/edccovid-19>)