



Kendall Park First Aid & Rescue Squad Covid-19 Response Guidance [Draft]



We are currently in the midst of a national emergency arising from the spread of the coronavirus-SARS-2. We are receiving guidance and updates on a nearly daily basis. In responding to this emergency we are implementing the following protocols to protect our squad members and our patients.

Rig Check

- The duty ambulance must be inspected by the duty crew on a daily basis at the start of the shift. The crew must complete the rig inspection sheet and any supplies that cannot be restocked or other issues must be reported to the line ASAP. Make sure adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available.

Response

- Calls involving possible cases of Covid-19, will be dispatched as "Public Health" assignments.
- In responding to possible cases of Covid-19, two crew members will don full PPE consisting of examination gloves, eye protection, gown/tyvek suit, N95 mask, and face shield. Follow attached donning and doffing guidance sheets. Other crew members will wear examination gloves, eye protection and N95 mask.
- The crew chief (or her/his designee) will approach the patient. She/he will communicate with the other crew members via portable radio (channel 20). Initial contact should be made from outside the door, if possible. In no case should the member be closer to the patient than 6 feet (ideally 10 feet) until a verbal survey has been taken. The survey should involve: diagnosis of Covid-19, patient's recent travel, exposure to persons with Covid-19, and recent history of fever, cough, and/or respiratory distress. A N95 mask or surgical mask should be placed on the patient prior to approaching the patient. The second member wearing full PPE will enter the home only if requested by the crew chief.

Patient Care

- Vitals shall include temperature, pulse, SpO₂, respiration, blood pressure, and lung sounds.
- If appropriate, have patient consider not going to the hospital, but instead speaking with physician prior to transport to hospital or self-transport to hospital. Consider calling hospital for guidance, if warranted.
- If transport is indicated, have the patient ambulate to the stretcher outside the residence, if possible. Bring in only the equipment that is needed into the residence. Used equipment should be placed in a bio bag for later cleaning or disposal.
- If equipment must be placed on surfaces in the home, put them on a plastic sheet. If a flexible stretcher or stair chair must be used, the plastic sheet should be placed between the device and the patient. The plastic sheet should also be placed under the hospital sheet on the ambulance cot.
- Call the hospital of patient's choice and confirm that they can accept the patient prior to leaving scene.
- If oxygen is needed for the patient it can be delivered via a nasal canula placed under their mask or via a non-rebreather mask which can be applied in lieu of the N95 mask or surgical mask.
- Until further notice, we will transport only the patient to the hospital. Family members, friends, and others should not be transported in the ambulance. If they desire to go to the hospital, they must find their own transportation. There are three exceptions: 1. Pediatric patients may be accompanied by one parent or guardian. The parent/guardian will be allowed to ride in the back and must wear an N95 mask. 2. Patients in

active labor may be accompanied by a spouse or support person. 3. A patient in an end-of-life emergency may be accompanied by a family member, All passengers in the ambulance should be given an n95 mask or surgical mask to wear. No passenger that exhibits/reports symptoms of Covid-19 shall be transported in the ambulance, no exceptions.

- If gloves need to be changed to avoid contamination of equipment such as the Toughbook, put new gloves over the initial gloves. Do not remove the initial gloves.

Transport

- If the designated driver has made patient contact, they must remove all PPE and place it in a large bio-bag prior to entering the ambulance. They should then put on new examination gloves and an N95 mask. The bio-bag containing the used PPE should be closed and placed in an outside compartment for disposal at the hospital.
- The door between the patient and driver compartment must be closed and the vent turned on and in the maximum position.
- Lights and Sirens may be used at the discretion of the Crew Chief.
- Upon arrival at the hospital, only the driver should enter the hospital and notify the hospital staff. Follow hospital staff direction for bringing the patient into the hospital.

Post-Call

- The vehicle and all used non-disposable equipment should be decontaminated using a anti-viral agent (such as bleach or Stryker Sidekick wipes). Disposable equipment and supplies should be placed in a bio bag and disposed of at the hospital. Do not remove your full PPE until decontamination is complete.
- Complete your patient care report as soon as possible and advise the line that you had a possible Covid-19 call.

Miscellaneous

- On calls not involving a patient with possible Covid-19, these protocols are not needed, but you must wear examination gloves and eye protection whenever making patient contact. The use of an N-95 mask is also strongly recommended.
- Any member who has been in contact with a person who is suspected of having Covid-19 when not wearing proper PPE, or who has a fever, unexplained cough, or experiences unexplained shortness of breath, should advise the line immediately, so they can be taken off the active schedule for 14 days. Self-quarantine and follow up with a physician is recommended. If accidental exposure occurs on a call please inform the line, so we can obtain prompt care for you.
- Members are encouraged to monitor their temperature daily and report any temperatures greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit to the line.