



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

To: All Officers and Members
From: Justin Wells, Assistant Chief
Through: Robert I. Garcia, Assistant Fire Chief *RIJ*
Subject: Patient Movement for COVID-19
Date: March 20, 2020

Mayor
Sylvester Turner

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At-Large 5
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Controller,
Chris Brown

The intent of this General Order is to minimize exposure to COVID-19 and preserve PPE, therefore the following Patient Movement guidelines shall override 7.09 in the Patient Care Guidelines and Standing Orders for **patients who meet COVID-19 screening criteria:**

- 1.) Patients who are able to walk may be escorted into the ambulance for the hospital transport. Stretcher use is not mandatory.
- 2.) Upon arrival to the hospital, the E/O shall enter the hospital alone and notify hospital personnel of the potential COVID-19 patient and come to an agreement with hospital staff as to how the patient should enter the hospital.
 - a. If the patient is ambulatory, the patient can be walked into the hospital with the assistance of only the Fire Fighter In-Charge of patient care.
 - b. If the patient is stretcher-bound, the E/O can request hospital personnel in proper PPE to come to the ambulance and assist the Firefighter In-Charge in taking the patient into the hospital.

The above-mentioned guidance DOES NOT apply to patients who are:

- 1.) not ambulatory
- 2.) in severe respiratory distress
- 3.) having acute chest pain/cardiac ischemia.

The goal is to preserve PPE for the Department, but anytime a member is within the six-foot distance of the patient, appropriate PPE SHALL be worn. Any questions or concerns with this order shall be addressed through the chain of command.

20-096

Samuel Peña, Fire Chief

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