



# HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Officers and Members  
**From:** Ruy Lozano, Assistant Chief *RL*  
**Through:** Rodney West, Assistant Fire Chief *RCW*  
**Subject:** Covid-19 BSI Supplies  
**Date:** March 12, 2020

**Mayor**  
Sylvester Turner

City Council

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**At-Large 2**  
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**At-Large 3**  
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**At-Large 4**  
Letitia Plummer

**At-Large 5**  
Sallie Alcorn

**Controller,**  
Chris Brown

The evolving Coronavirus clearly impacted the global supply chain with respect to "normal" Body Substance Isolation (BSI) products. The Houston Fire Department has been monitoring the situation for several months and has made purchases in anticipation of predicted shortages. Currently our supplies of BSI products and sanitizing products are at appropriate levels to respond to the surge in demand. The HFD, while working with our partners at the Strategic Purchasing Department, is continuing to make purchases of opportunities as products become available. This situation underscores the importance of conservative distribution model to ensure availability for the unforeseeable future. **It is illegal to take City-purchased supplies for personal use. As the City's frontline of defense to Covid-19, the HFD limits supplies for official use only.**

Currently, the market is signally limited access to medical gowns. The HFD has enough in stock to meet the needs but a conservative approach in distribution is warranted considering the global supply and demand disparity. All transport units will ensure that at least one is available on the unit for each member.

**Consistent with Memorandum 20-081:** Members providing direct patient care to, riding in the patient compartment with, or coming within 6 feet of a suspected COVID-19 patient should don the following PPE:

- o N95 Mask
- o Eye protection
- o Disposable gown or coveralls
- o Gloves

Once the call is complete, members will replace their gown(s) with Senior Supervisors. If Sr. Supervisors are unavailable, District Chiefs will be your secondary resupply source. A log will be in place to document medical gown utilization. Our goal is not to discourage the use of appropriate PPE, but to ensure proper control measures are in place and track which of our members have engaged in possible corona virus calls. Member will continue to follow the Infectious Disease and Control Guideline.

20-084



**Samuel Peña, Fire Chief**  
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