



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: All Officers and Members
From: Herbert Griffin, Assistant Fire Chief *HG*
Through: Robert I. Garcia, Assistant Fire Chief *RGA*
Subject: Isolation/Quarantine Protocol
Date: March 12, 2020

Mayor
 Sylvester Turner

City Council

District A
 Amy Peck

District B
 Jerry Davis

District C
 Abbie Kamin

District D
 Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

District E
 Dave Martin

District F
 Tiffany Thomas

District G
 Greg Travis

District H
 Karla Cisneros

District I
 Robert Gallegos

District J
 Edward Pollard

District K
 Martha Castex-Tatum

At-Large 1
 Mike Knox

At-Large 2
 David Robinson

At-Large 3
 Michael Kubosh

At-Large 4
 Letitia Plummer

At-Large 5
 Sallie Alcorn

Controller,
 Chris Brown

The Houston Fire Department is making every effort to maintain the safety of its members and provide up to date guidance regarding the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Both *General Order No. 20-082 Patient Care Protocol* and *Memorandum No. 20-081 COVID-19 Update* provide detailed guidance for proper actions and PPE.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to provide guidance and direction regarding what is considered an exposure to the health care provider aimed at preventing further spread of COVID-19. The most important action a member can take regarding their own personal safety, as it pertains to any infectious exposure, is to wear their personal protective equipment. Exposure and infectious risk, as it relates to COVID-19 exposure, are significantly reduced when wearing appropriate gloves, eye protection, N95 mask, and gown. Responses to all EMS calls require at a minimum the wearing of gloves and eye protection. If operating within 6ft of patients with flu like or respiratory symptoms, fever or cough, members shall wear gloves, eye protection and N95 mask with a surgical mask on the patient. Gloves, eye protection, N95 masks and gowns are required for members caring for patients that fit the COVID-19 criteria. **See Medical Direction attachment.**

Members who make contact with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases will follow all documentation and reporting procedures. In accordance with the most current CDC guidance, members will then be evaluated for risk exposure by HFD Infection Control. Members meeting criteria for medium to high risk exposures are subject to possible Work Exclusion after risk evaluation and will be required to comply with public health measures set forth by the Houston Health Department. Members placed on *Work Exclusion* will be required to self-quarantine at home and will receive education from HFD Infection Control on how to monitor and report symptoms and minimize risk to other household members. Details regarding home self-quarantine are subject to change as more direction comes from the CDC.

Questions regarding this correspondence should be directed through the chain of command to Infection Control at 832-394-6846 or 346-291-4964.

20-085



Samuel Peña, Fire Chief
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 "Courage, Commitment and Compassion"
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