



EMS COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Quick Sheet

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

EMS is an essential part of the healthcare system and as such has known risk and contact with patients who have COVID-19. Below are risk mitigation factors when dealing with these patients.

General Patient Contacts

- Patients who screen positive for COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath) should have a surgical mask placed on them, in conjunction with oxygen as needed, or have an oxygen mask placed if clinically indicated.
- All other patients should have a cloth mask placed, if available. This is accordance to [CDC recommendations](#) of wearing cloth face coverings whenever someone is in public.
- Respirators should be prioritized for procedures likely to generate aerosols.
- When the supply chain is restored, fit-tested EMS providers should return to use of respirators for patients with known or suspected COVID-19.
- Eye protection, gown and gloves continue to be recommended. If there is a shortage of gowns, they should be prioritized for aerosol-generating procedures (or activities where contact with blood or body fluids is anticipated).
- Excellent hand hygiene remains critical, including before and after donning and doffing PPE.
- During transport, limit the number of providers in the patient compartment to essential personnel to minimize possible exposures.

Ambulance Air Flow

- Ventilation systems in the driver's compartment of ambulances should be placed into non-recirculating mode (NO MAX AIR CONDITIONING) with the fan on high.
- Patient compartment vents should be turned to venting air out of the vehicle at the highest rate possible.
- Ambulances that do have windows between the driver's and patient compartment must have them closed and sealed. Sliding windows will allow for air to seep into the compartment. These should also be sealed.
- When arriving at facilities, the doors to the patient compartments should be opened FIRST. They should be opened fully BEFORE opening the front doors (driver's compartment) of the ambulance.
- More details for vehicle mitigation from the CDC can be found [here](#).