STATE OF MICHIGAN
GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

Memorandum

DATE: March 30, 2020

TO: Michigan Fire Service

FROM: Kevin J. Sehlmeyer, State Fire Marshal/Director

SUBJECT: National Study on COVID-19 Responses

The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Data Center (NFDC) is implementing a national-level special study in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to assist fire departments in recording responses to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic in a nationally consistent manner. The special study will document fire department calls to suspected or confirmed incidents involving the sudden and nationwide spread of COVID-19. The severity of the spread has resulted in a national emergency declaration and is impacting the nation's fire service.

The collection of this data in NFIRS is allowed by the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (as Amended Through P.L. 112-239, Enacted January 3, 2019) and aligns with the mission and founding principles of the USFA. This includes the need to collect, analyze, and disseminate relevant information about the firefighter health and safety, as well as to establish research and priority identification for the fire service.

The goal of this special study is to collect, aggregate and quantify the number of fire department responses to incidents in which COVID-19 was a factor. The data will not be made available to the public but will be used by the USFA at the national level, and it will be available in the NFIRS Data Warehouse for registered NFIRS users. The use of this national-level special study is to ensure that the data is collected uniformly by the 24,300 reporting fire departments in NFIRS that have responded to more than 28.7 million incidents in 2018.

1) Special Study Scope:

-Description:	COVID-19 Discovery
-Collection Level:	National
-Participants:	Fire departments that participate in NFIRS
-Start Date:	01/01/2020
-End Date:	12/31/2022

2) Basic Module Special Study (ID# 9244): COVID-19 was a factor in this incident.

3) Codes:

1. Yes, COVID-19 was suspected.
2. Yes, COVID-19 was confirmed.
3. No, COVID-19 was not a factor.
4. Unknown.

This special study is being implemented in NFIRS because of its use in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American Tribes, and the Department of Defense. The use of this special study along with other data collected about the incident helps in the analysis of the fire department response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This special study should be used in conjunction with the guidance released by the USFA on Monday, March 16, 2020, that recommended the use of the other NFIRS modules, e.g., Fire Service Casualty Module, and the use of Remarks.

Please contact the NFIRS Support Center for any questions or assistance.

NFIRS Support Center
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