

## REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

To: All Region 1 EMS Providers and Hospitals

From: Mercyhealth System  
Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital EMS System  
OSF Northern Region EMS System  
SwedishAmerican Hospital EMS System

Re: Patients with Possible COVID-19 Virus Exposure/Infection

Date: March 6, 2020

The EMS Medical Directors and EMS Coordinators of Region 1 would like to communicate the process for transporting and receiving suspected patients with possible exposure and/or symptoms of COVID 19.

IDPH has communicated to all via email on how to manage these types of patients in the pre-hospital setting as well as how to protect EMS providers if a patient encountered is suspected of or has a history of the COVID 19 (memo attached).

Please follow those IDPH recommendations for the safety for EMS agencies, providers, and emergency department staff.

At this time we recommend all EMS providers and hospital Emergency Departments utilize the following guidelines:

1. Please provide early notification to the receiving facility on inbound medical report that you have a patient that you suspect may have the COVID-19 virus or has been in contact/has symptoms of the COVID-19 virus.
2. The emergency department staff should be notified to prepare a room for this patient.
3. Once the EMS provider arrives at the emergency department please wait in the ambulance in the ambulance bay and do not unload the patient until someone from the ED comes out or provides direction to assist the crew to the proper room.
4. Please be sure that the patient has a surgical/procedure mask in place before the ED staff escorts you to the assigned room in the ED.
5. If following the ED exam and testing the patient tests positive for the COVID-19 virus the transporting agency leadership will be notified by the hospital/EMS System and will be advised on next steps.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact your EMS Systems Coordinator.