



## COVID-19 Best Practice EMS Patient Transfer at Emergency Departments

Adopted – 4/20/2020  
Revised – 4/20/2020

### Transfer of patients from EMS to Eds using the following guidelines is meant to:

- Prevent cross-contamination in hospitals,
  - Provide continued exposure protection for EMS throughout patient care,
  - Allow for consistent use of King County EMS PPE donning, doffing, and decon procedures, and
  - Prevent unnecessary use of PPE.
1. Unstable (ALS) patients **and** full PPE due to probability of COVID (see page 2):
    - a. Attempt to notify ED personnel of COVID status of patient using the Hospital Notification Checklist.
    - b. Move expeditiously into ED based on unstable nature of patient.
    - c. Exit the ED in full PPE using the same route entered.
    - d. Doff PPE outside of the hospital.
    - e. Decon personnel, equipment, and apparatus, as necessary.
    - f. Re-enter ED to complete documentation.
    - g. Move apparatus if/when ED ramp is congested to designated/safe decon area.
  2. Unstable (ALS) patients with low probability of COVID - includes partial or full PPE (see page 2):
    - a. Attempt to notify ED personnel of COVID status of patient using the Hospital Notification Checklist.
    - b. Move expeditiously into ED based on unstable nature of patient as per normal.
    - c. If full PPE, exit the ED in full PPE using the same route entered.
  3. Stable patients (BLS or ALS) **and** full PPE due to probability of COVID (see page 2):
    - a. Patient remains in apparatus with EMS.
    - b. Notify ED personnel of COVID status of patient using the Hospital Notification Checklist.
    - c. Driver invites Triage Nurse out to apparatus.
    - d. Suggest hospital bed be brought near ambulance entrance to prevent cross-contamination.
    - e. Transfer patient to hospital bed.
    - f. Exit hospital to ensure no cross-contamination.
    - g. OR If instructed to enter hospital all the way to treatment room, then exit the ED in full PPE on the same route entered.
    - h. Doff PPE outside of the hospital.
    - i. Decon personnel, equipment, and apparatus, as necessary.
    - j. Re-enter ED to complete documentation.
    - k. Move apparatus if/when ED ramp is congested.
    - l. If 15 minutes goes by with no bed, the patient is transferred to an ED supervised temporary accommodation, (e.g. foldable Army cot or a folding chair), to wait for a bed. These are stable patients. A COVID-19 suspected patient would have to wait in an isolated location.
  4. Stable patients with low probability of COVID – includes partial or full PPE (see page 2):
    - a. Enter the ED as per normal.
    - b. Notify ED personnel of COVID status of patient using the Hospital Notification Checklist.
    - c. If full PPE, exit the ED in full PPE using the same route entered.

## EMS - COVID-19 HOSPITAL NOTIFICATION CHECKLIST

**YES, to both questions in this box (RED) -> Advise Hospital of a HIGH probability isolation patient:**

**Symptoms:** Has the patient had any of the following symptoms of acute respiratory infection?

- Fever (or subjective fever)
- New cough
- New shortness of breath (without alternative diagnosis)
- New onset myalgias (soreness/achiness in muscles)

**Exposure:** Has the patient had any of the following in the last 14 days before symptom onset?

- Close contact with, or part of, an COVID-19 illness cluster in a facility or group
- Close contact with a suspected or lab-confirmed COVID-19 case
- Healthcare worker or in a high-risk occupation (e.g. EMS, firefighter, public safety)

**IF NO to all questions in this RED box proceed to next checklist.**

**YES, to any questions in this box (YELLOW) -> Advise Hospital of a MEDIUM probability isolation patient:**

- Cough
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

**IF NO to all questions in this YELLOW box proceed to next box.**

**IF NO to ALL RED and YELLOW box questions -> Advise Hospital of a LOW probability isolation patient**



## COVID-19 Best Practice Hospital Transfer Protocol

Adopted - 3-23-2020

Revised - 3-26-2020

### Unstable Patients (ALS): Full PPE due to High or Medium Probability of COVID

- Notify ED personnel of COVID status of patient\*
- Move expeditiously into ED based on unstable nature of patient
- Exit the ED along the same route entered without removing PPE – prevent cross-contamination
- Doff PPE outside of the hospital
- Decon personnel, equipment and apparatus
- Re-enter ED to complete documentation
- Move apparatus if/when ED ramp is congested

### Unstable Patients (ALS): Low Probability of COVID – Partial or Full PPE due to initial exam

- Notify ED personnel of COVID status of patient\*
- Move expeditiously into ED based on unstable nature of patient as per normal
- If full PPE, exit ED along the same route entered without removing PPE – prevent cross-contamination

### Stable Patients (BLS or ALS): Full PPE due to High or Medium Probability of COVID

- Patient remains in apparatus
- Notify ED personnel of COVID status\*
- Triage Nurse to apparatus
- Hospital bed brought near ambulance
- ***OR*** If instructed enter hospital
- Exit ED along the same route entered without removing PPE – prevent cross-contamination
- Decon personnel, equipment and apparatus
- Re-enter ED to complete documentation
- Move apparatus if/when ED ramp is congested
- Up to 15 minute delay due to COVID status

### Stable Patients (BLS or ALS): Low Probability of COVID - Partial or Full PPE due to initial exam

- Enter the ED as per normal
- Notify ED personnel of COVID status of patient\*
- If full PPE, exit ED along the same route entered without removing PPE – prevent cross-contamination

# Hospital Transfer Protocol: Patient Evaluation

Unstable  
Patients (ALS)

Stable Patients  
(BLS or ALS)

High or Medium Probability of  
COVID

Low Probability of COVID –  
No symptoms

High or Medium Probability of  
COVID

Low Probability of COVID –  
No symptoms

## Transfer Directions:

- Notify ED personnel of COVID status of patient\*
- Move expeditiously into ED based on unstable nature of patient
- **Exit ED same route entered** without removing PPE – prevent cross-contamination
- Doff PPE outside of the hospital
- Decon personnel, equipment and apparatus
- Re-enter ED to complete documentation

## Transfer Directions:

- Notify ED personnel of COVID status of patient\*
- Move expeditiously into ED based on unstable nature of patient as per normal
- If full PPE, **exit ED same route entered** without removing PPE – prevent cross-contamination

## Transfer Directions:

- Patient remains in apparatus
- Notify ED personnel of COVID status\*
- Triage Nurse to apparatus
- Hospital bed brought near ambulance
- **OR** If instructed enter hospital
- **Exit ED same route entered** without removing PPE – prevent cross-contamination
- Decon personnel, equipment and apparatus
- Re-enter ED to complete documentation
- Up to 15-minute delay due to COVID status

## Transfer Directions:

- Enter the ED as per normal
- Notify ED personnel of COVID status of patient\*
- If full PPE, **exit ED same route entered** without removing PPE – prevent cross-contamination