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)**
- High or Medium Probability of COVID
  - 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

- 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
    - If full PPE, **exit ED same route entered** without removing PPE – prevent cross-contamination

**Stable Patients (BLS or ALS)**
- High or Medium Probability of COVID
  - 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

- Low Probability of COVID – No symptoms
  - 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