



April 3, 2020

Fire and EMS in King County have set an important example of common-sense, best practices at work with regard to COVID-19 pandemic. As we move forward the next few weeks, we expect COVID-19 prevalence to increase in the community. Fire Departments and EMS have taken a proactive approach with wellness screening and commitment to have persons who feel unwell stay at home or leave work immediately.

Going forward, we need to emphasize that some of the most important actions are what we do with regard to social practices while at work. Hand-washing, wiping down countertops, keyboards, and equipment in the stations, and social distancing all work to reduce the risk of transmission.

Although social distancing runs counter to the public safety culture, we need each of you to practice social distancing at work to the extent feasible. Examples include staying at least 6 feet apart whenever possible, not preparing meals together, eating separately. Again these behaviors run counter to normal behaviors that promote teamwork and active engagement. Fortunately these actions are term-limited but important during the weeks ahead as we navigate the health burden of COVID-19 for public safety and regional healthcare.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Rea".

Thomas Rea, MD
Medical Program Director, King County EMS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Sayre".

Michael Sayre, MD
Medical Director, Seattle Fire Dept.