March 5th, 2020

Oregon EMS Directors, and Medical Directors

Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) during the current Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. It is recommended that EMS implement the following travel history screening for all callers with any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, difficulty breathing.

1. Does the person have fever or symptoms of lower respiratory infection, such as cough or shortness of breath? AND
2. Has the patient traveled outside the continental United States within 14 days of symptom onset? OR
3. Has the patient had close contact (6 feet) with a person confirmed with (COVID-19) infection?

If the patient meets the above CDC criteria, then:
1. Provide medical care per protocol.
2. Ensure that the patient is masked;
3. Ensure that healthcare personnel use contact, droplet, AND airborne precautions, as follows:
   a. A single pair of disposable patient examination gloves. Change gloves if they become torn or heavily contaminated,
   b. Disposable isolation gown,
   c. Respiratory protection (i.e., N-95 or higher-level respirator), and
   d. Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face).
4. Involve the fewest EMS personnel required to minimize possible exposures.
5. Use caution with aerosol generating procedures and ventilate ambulance if possible.
6. Notify the receiving hospital (according to local protocols) of potential infection as soon as possible.
7. Disinfect using EPA registered disinfectants with known effectiveness against human coronaviruses.
8. Follow local public health authority policies for reporting and follow up of health care workers with contact to suspected cases.

Please contact us with any questions or visit: healthoregon.org/coronavirus

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