



Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Team

03/06/2020 Information Bulletin 2020-02 Personal Protective Equipment Advisory

With increased responses to COVID-19 in Oregon, the OFSCRT would like to **strongly** recommend fire service agencies adhere to the following CDC guidance on recommended PPE.

First responders are the first line of defense in the spread of this virus. It is imperative that responders do everything necessary to protect themselves and shut down spread by wearing proper PPE. Wearing a complete ensemble of PPE, as recommended by the CDC, includes protecting your skin, eyes, and respiratory system from infected droplet, specifically eye protection.

Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- EMS clinicians who will directly care for a patient with possible COVID-19 infection or who will be in the compartment with the patient should follow Standard, Contact, and Airborne Precautions, including the use of eye protection. Recommended PPE includes:
 - A single pair of disposable patient examination gloves. Change gloves if they become torn or heavily contaminated
 - Disposable isolation gown
 - Respiratory protection (i.e., N-95 or higher-level respirator)
 - Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face).

- Drivers, if they provide direct patient care (e.g., moving patients onto stretchers), should wear all recommended PPE. After completing patient care and before entering an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove and dispose of PPE and perform hand hygiene to avoid soiling the compartment.
 - If the transport vehicle does **not** have an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove the face shield or goggles, gown, and gloves and perform hand hygiene. A respirator should continue to be used during transport.
- All personnel should avoid touching their face while working.
- On arrival, after the patient is released to the facility, EMS clinicians should remove and discard PPE and perform hand hygiene. Used PPE should be discarded in accordance with routine procedures.
- Other required aspects of Standard Precautions (e.g., injection safety, hand hygiene) are not emphasized in this document but can be found in the guideline titled [Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings](#).

Entire guidance available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>