

COVID-19 guidance for EMS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

when caring for suspected or confirmed patients

Purpose

This information is intended to **help healthcare providers reduce the risk for SARS-CoV-2** transmission, especially with regards to resuscitation care. Please note that guidance may vary based on location.



EMS Dispatchers



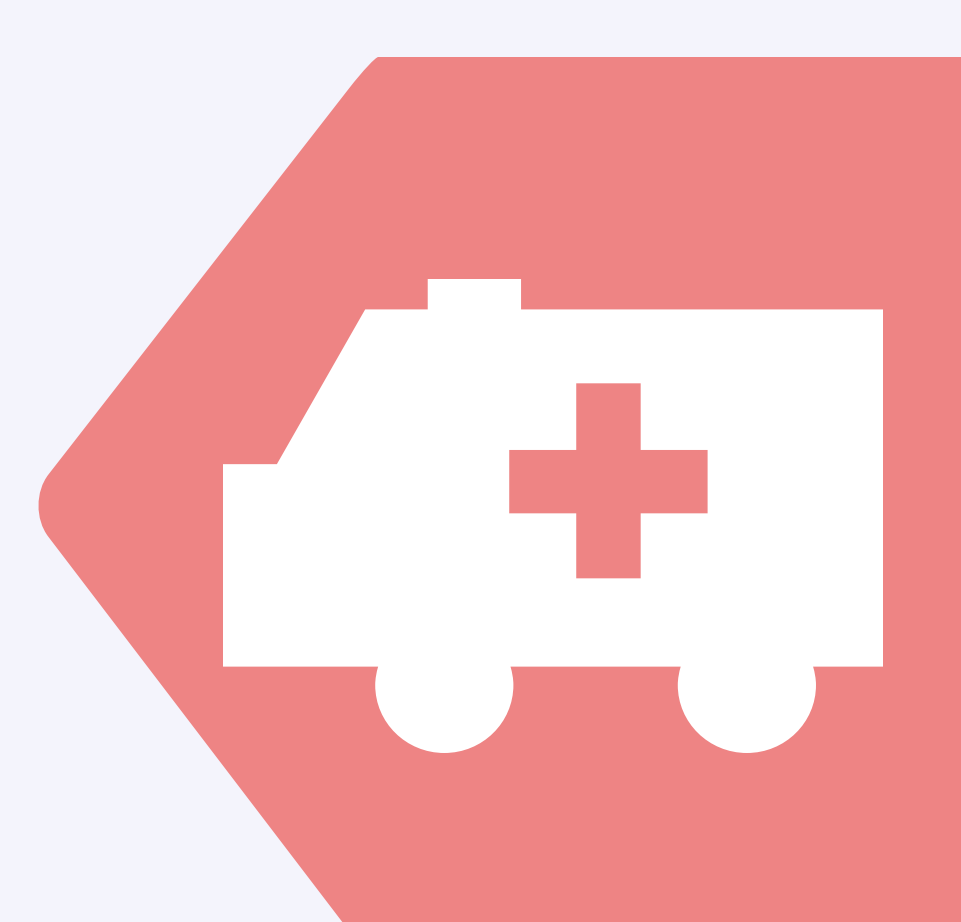
EMS Dispatch should question callers about potential COVID-19 signs, symptoms, and risk factors



However, this **should not supersede providing pre-arrival instructions to callers** when lifesaving interventions are required

When potential COVID-19 infection is suspected in a patient needed emergency transport:

EMS Dispatch **should notify prehospital care providers and healthcare facilities in advance** that the patient may have COVID-19



PPE & Exposure Reduction

If dispatchers advise that a patient is suspected of having a COVID-19 infection, protect with:



A single pair of disposable **gloves**



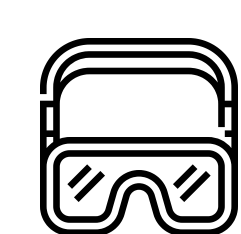
Facemask, or **higher-level respirator** (eg. N95) if available

- N95 respirators should be prioritized instead of a facemask for aerosol-generating procedures

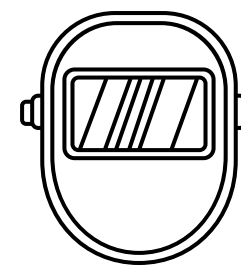


Eye protection

Either



Goggles



Disposable face shield that fully covers the front and side of the face



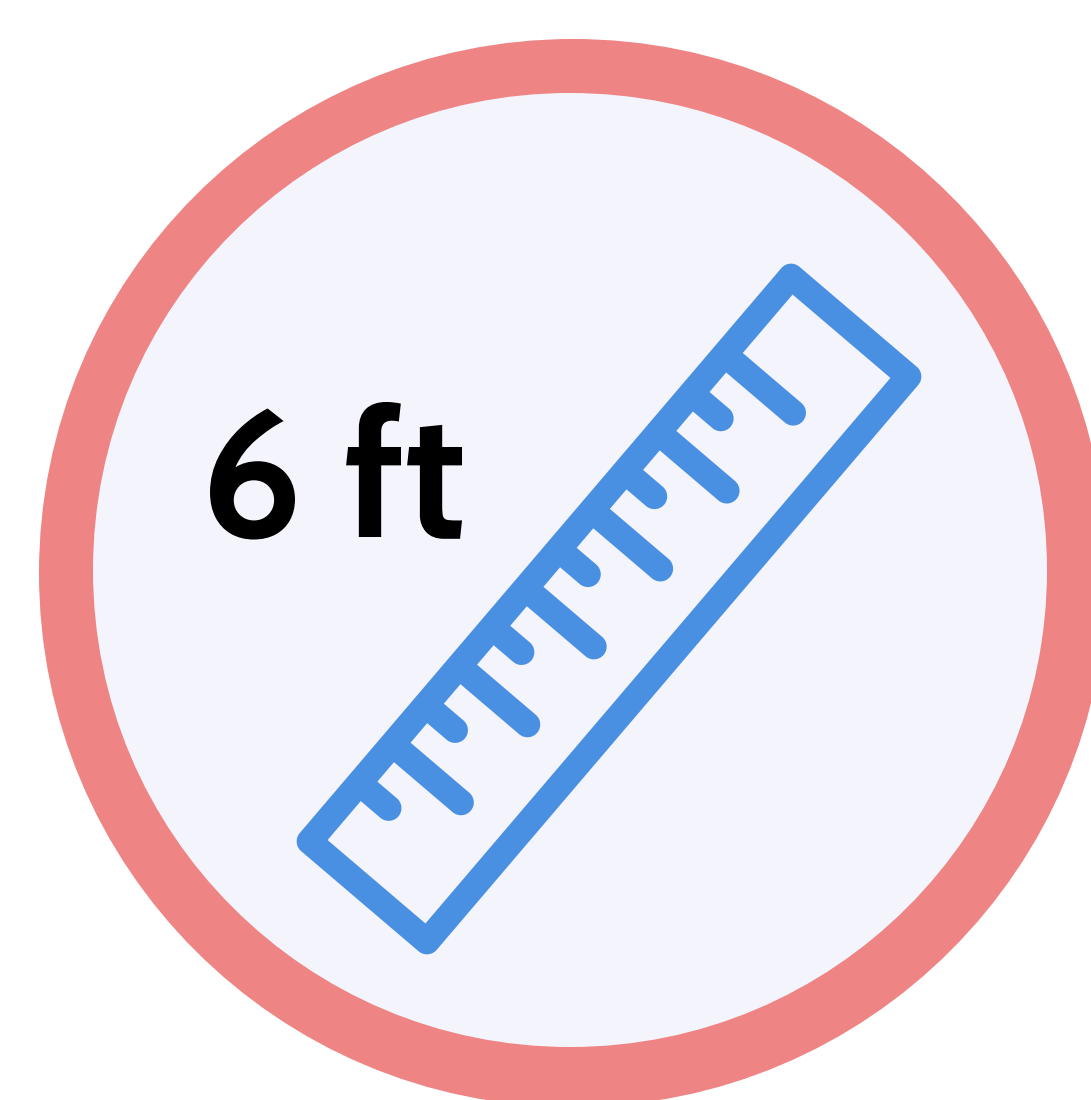
Gowns

In the event of a **gown shortage**, they should be prioritized for:

- Aerosol-generating procedures
- Care activities where splash/spray is anticipated
- High contact patient care activities



Suspect COVID-19? A **facemask over nasal cannula** should be used by the patient (or oxygen mask if indicated)

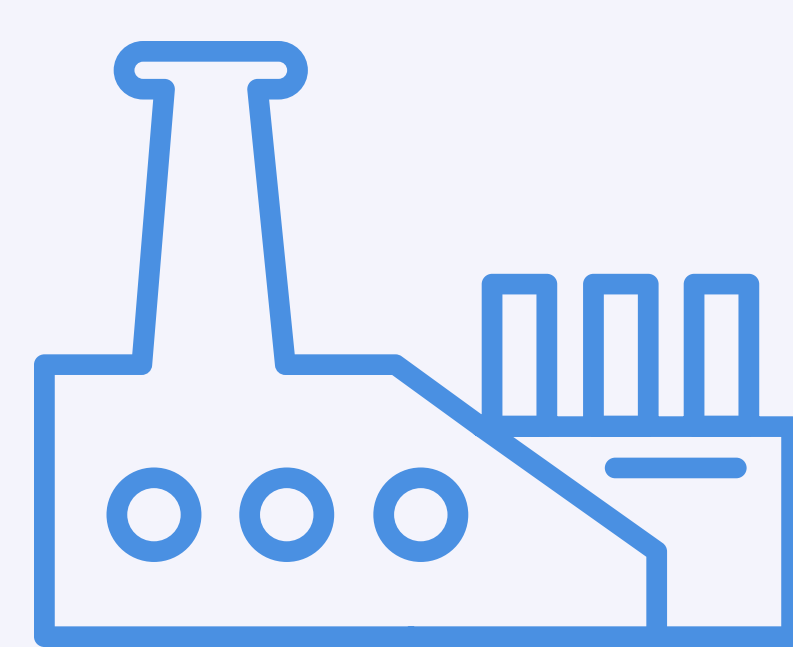


Unsure of the patient's COVID-19 risk? Begin assessment **6 feet** away if possible, until a facemask is on the patient.

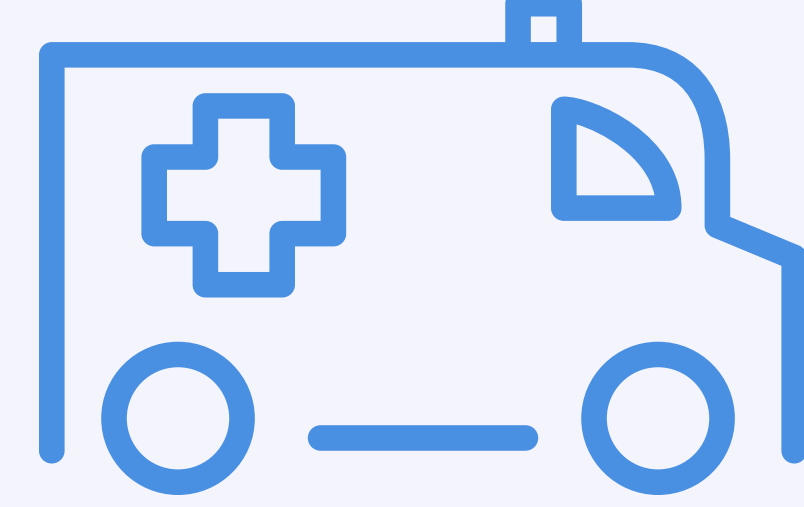
Aerosol Generating Procedures



Equip BVM's and other ventilatory equipment with a **HEPA filter** for expired air



EMS organizations should contact equipment manufacturers to **confirm filtration capabilities and effect on PPV**



If away from pedestrians: **use HVAC system** and open rear doors during aerosol generating procedures

Aerosol generating procedures require **additional precautions:**

Non aerosol-generating procedures



Intravenous injections

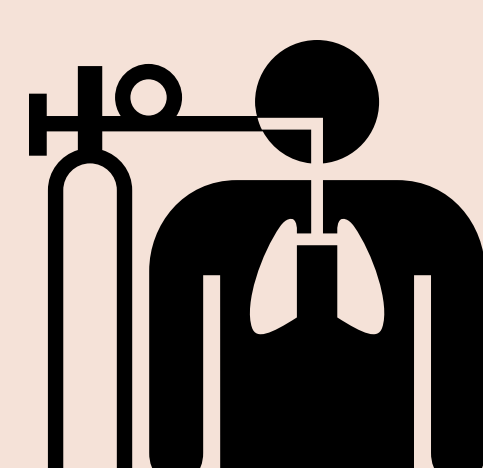


Nasopharyngeal swabs

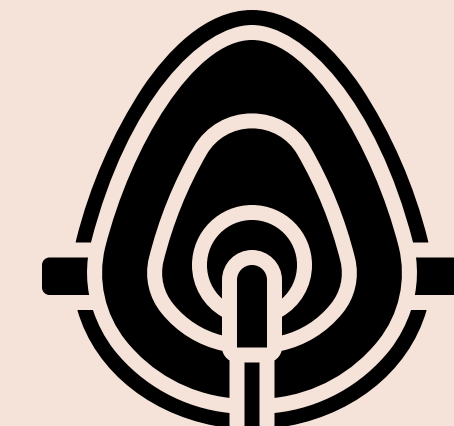


Drawing bloodwork

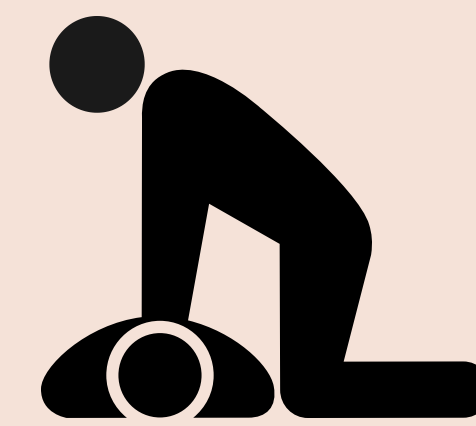
Aerosol-generating procedures



Endotracheal Intubation



Non-invasive ventilation



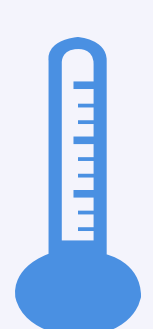
CPR

Special Considerations for Transport

1 Notify the receiving facility prior to arrival if the patient has signs, symptoms, or risk factors for COVID-19



Shortness of breath



Fever



Cough



Recent travel or contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19

2 Keep the patient separated from other people as much as possible:



Isolate ambulance driver from patient area by keeping doors and windows closed



Family should not ride in transport vehicle, if possible. Provide face masks if riding in transport vehicle

3 If ventilating in a vehicle without an isolated driver compartment, create a negative pressure gradient by:



Open outside air vents in the drivers area



Turn on rear exhaust ventilation fans to the highest setting