

# PPE Decision Tree for ESF Field Providers

**Gloves, Eye protection and a fit tested N95** are required prior to patient contact as the minimum PPE standard. The goals for additional protective measures are to reduce the exposure of Personnel (and our community) to all types of pathogens by minimizing contact, using PPE, and completing effective decontamination.

**On all calls, all personnel who are entering the scene AND making patient contact should don a fit test N95\*. All other personnel in the periphery should wear a surgical mask/or equivalent (minimum) or a non-fit tested N95, should they need to assist.**

## STEP 1: Do these things:

- If possible, minimize number of personnel making contact/entering room to 1 or 2 people;
- Interview the patient from 6 feet away if possible.
- Put **surgical mask on the patient** and increase air flow to room (open windows)
- If patient is stable, have the patient come outside to open air.

## STEP 2: Ask these questions:

- Has the patient been in contact with a suspected case of CoVid-19 or awaiting results from testing?
- Does the patient have viral symptoms of Fever >99.9°F/cough, nasal and chest congestion, sore throat and body aches?
- Does the patient have a rash, or suspect for Measles, Mumps, Chicken Pox, Rubella, suspect for meningitis or TB?
- Is this patient going to need treatment using an Aerosol-Generating Procedure (AGP)? (According to our local infectious disease docs AGP includes High flow Oxygen from an NRB, CPAP, Suctioning, Administration of Nebulized Medication, Intubation, use of a BVM, or CPR)

Continue with N95\* Mask, Eye protection, and Gloves

No

If the answer is YES to any of the questions above

The transporting tech crew will need to complete the following:

- **Don Gown;**
- During transport turn on the exhaust fan;
- Seal window between cab and patient area;
- Alert the ED of flu like symptoms or suspected infectious disease. Wait for hospital staff upon arrival, do not bring patient through hospital unless critical;
- Driver must utilize an N95\* and eye protection during transport;
- Change uniforms back at the station.
- **\*\*Send N95 mask into Logistics for reclamation.**

**\*\*When the patient is not suspected of COVID-19, the N95\* should be reused. If contact was made with a suspected COVID19 patient the mask should be sent to logistics via a paper bag in the reclamation box for decontamination. When the mask has been grossly contaminated it should be trashed. (Only time we trash N95s)**

**\*APRs (Air Purifying Respirators) should be used by the personnel they are assigned to instead of a fit tested N95.**