

EXECUTIVE ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subject:

Coronavirus 2019 Guidance on Calls for Service

Number

EO-20-021

Effective Date

April 10, 2020

Related to:

GO-SPT-302.01 (Calls for Police Services)

Rescinds:

EO-20-014 (Coronavirus 2019 Guidance on Calls for Service),
Effective Date March 20, 2020

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to provide Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) members with guidance on responding to calls for service and initiating police action during the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) emergency while maximizing the safety of members and others.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Guidance on Calls for Service and Self-Initiated Police Action

1. The Office of Unified Communications (OUC) will be asking callers if they or anyone at their location has been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19. If someone has been exposed or diagnosed, dispatchers will note the information in the remarks field of the event record. Because all subjects will not be able to be identified during the call screening process by the OUC, and to account for self-initiated police action, members may also respectfully ask individuals if they have been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19.
2. In all cases, when interacting with individuals, officers are encouraged, when practical, to respectfully ask individuals to speak with them outdoors and remain at least six feet away from individuals.
3. Whenever possible, members should limit the number of responders to the fewest needed to provide quality police service and ensure the safety of themselves and others. Members should also be observant of individuals who may exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 so they may retreat and don the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
4. Members shall ensure they have their PPE on their person for all investigate the trouble, man/woman down, and medical-related calls for service or self-initiated police actions. When necessary (e.g., administering CPR), members shall don their gloves and N-95 respirator or facemask at a minimum. Full PPE is not required unless the subject is exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

- B. Calls for Service Involving Subjects Exhibiting Signs or Symptoms of COVID-19
1. When members respond to a call for service where the dispatcher advises or members determine that a subject at the location is exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19, and members do not need to make immediate contact with the subject, members should wait for Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) to respond prior to entering the location. If members must make contact before the arrival of DCFEMS, members should don the appropriate PPE prior to making contact with the subject.
 2. Absent exigent circumstances, members shall follow screening and entry protocols related to COVID-19 prior to entering hospitals or other medical facilities. Prior to entering a ward or area within a hospital or other medical facility where known COVID-19 patients are present, members should don appropriate PPE.
- C. PPE Donning and Removal Procedures for Suspected or Known COVID-19 Cases
1. If at any time during the donning or removal of PPE members' hands are contaminated, they should immediately wash their hands with soap and water or apply an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
 2. Members shall don and remove PPE in the order outlined below.

Steps for Donning PPE	
a.	Remove duty belt.
b.	Sanitize: Wash hands with soap and water or apply an alcohol-based hand sanitizer prior to handling PPE.
c.	Tyvek Suit/Gown: Put on Tyvek suit, or for the gown, fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back. Fasten gown in back of neck and waist.
d.	Shoe Covers: Place over shoes or boots.
e.	N95 Respirator or Face Mask: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head or neck. (2) Fit flexible band at nose bridge. (3) Fit snug to face and below chin. (4) Fit-check respirator (ensure there are no open areas around the edges of mask).
f.	Goggles: Place over eyes and adjust straps to fit.
g.	Gloves: Extend to cover wrists over gown/suit.
h.	Put on the duty belt outside of the gown/suit.

Steps for Removing PPE	
a.	Open clear plastic bag.
b.	Remove duty belt and goggles and place inside plastic bag.
c.	Open Red Biohazard Infectious Waste Bag ("Waste Bag") or other plastic bag if not available.
d.	Remove shoe covers and place into the Waste Bag.
e.	Remove Tyvek suit or gown and gloves <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) For the gown, grasp the front and pull away from your body so that the ties break, touching outside of gown only with gloved hands.

	(2) While removing the gown or suit, fold or roll the gown or suit inside-out into a bundle (peel off your gloves at the same time, only touching the inside of your gloves and gown/suit with your bare hands).
	(3) Place the gown/suit and gloves into the Waste Bag.
f.	Remove N95 Respirator or face mask by grasping the bottom ties or elastic ties of the mask, then the ones at the top, and remove mask without touching the front. Place the mask in Waste Bag. (NOTE: N95 masks may be reused unless (1) the mask is soiled, or (2) the member wore the mask while in contact with a person known or suspected to have COVID-19 or other communicable disease).
g.	Secure all used PPE in Waste Bag and tie bag shut for disposal.
h.	Immediately wash hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

3. Upon completion of PPE removal, members of the Domestic Security Operations Unit (DSOU) shall respond and take custody of the Waste Bag for proper disposal. DSOU members shall also take custody of the plastic bag to decontaminate the member's goggles and duty belt before returning them to the member.
4. Members shall request replacement PPE through their unit administrative offices who will coordinate with the Equipment and Supply Branch.

D. Vehicle Cleaning

1. For routine vehicle cleaning after transports, members shall wipe down all hard surfaces in their vehicles in a well-ventilated area while wearing gloves and their ballistic helmet with the face shield lowered for protection. Members shall use the disinfectant solution and shop towels or disinfectant wipes available at the district stations.
2. When using disinfectant solution, members shall spray objects to be cleaned, letting the solution sit for approximately one minute before wiping the area down. Once complete, members shall wipe down their face shields and dispose of their gloves and any towels or wipes in the trash.
3. Members who transport individuals who are known or suspected to have COVID-19 shall notify their watch commander who shall ensure the vehicle and vehicle keys are immediately secured and placed out of service. The watch commander shall ensure the vehicle keys are sanitized (i.e., sprayed with cleaner while wearing PPE and then air dried) and request that the Department of General Services (DGS) respond through the Command Information Center (CIC) to sanitize the vehicle. The vehicle **shall not** be operated until it is sanitized by DGS.

E. Decontamination Procedures

1. When a member responds to a call for service and comes in contact with an individual confirmed or suspected (i.e. displaying symptoms) of having COVID-19 and the member had not donned PPE at that time, the member

shall immediately notify a supervisor and the Police and Fire Clinic (PFC).

2. The supervisor shall notify the CIC to request members of the DSOU to respond to the member's patrol district.
3. The member shall respond directly to their patrol district, park their vehicle away from other members, and avoid all contact with other members. Members shall stay in their vehicle until the DSOU arrives and be guided by DSOU members upon arrival on scene.
4. DSOU members will set up a mobile tent attached with a heated water source for decontamination.

Member Decontamination Procedures	
a.	The member will enter the tent and remove MPD issued gear, and uniform. All equipment and uniforms items that can be easily sanitized (e.g., duty weapon, magazines, ASP, ECD, flashlight, handcuffs) will be sanitized by DSOU and placed in a zip lock bag.
b.	All equipment and uniform items that are unable to be sanitized on scene (e.g., vest, uniform shirt and pants, nylon duty belt, boots) will be placed in a bag for the member. The member will take the bag home and launder all items using the warmest appropriate water setting separate from other clothing. All items unable to be washed in a laundry machine shall be wiped down with antiseptic wipes and left to air dry.
c.	The member will be given a washcloth and soap and will be advised to wash their entire body. They will be given a towel to dry off and will be given a white coverall suit or an extra set of the member's clothing. (During the emergency, members may want to keep an extra set of clothes in their lockers in case needed.) No other member will be present in the decontamination shower area. This area will be out of public view.
d.	The member shall not enter any police facility at any time. A DSOU member or another member will enter and retrieve any personal property the member requests.
e.	The member will be given back all items that were sanitized by the DSOU including the member's duty belt.

5. The member's vehicle will be secured and be placed out of service. DSOU will make notification to CIC for the DGS to respond to the district and sanitize the vehicle. The keys to the vehicle will be handed over to the DSOU who will sanitize them and give them to the member's respective watch commander. The vehicle **shall not** be operated until it is sanitized by DGS.



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