

Operating Guideline # 1106

Screening on Scene COVID - 19

April 8, 2020



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to describe the active screening process and how to address the responses provided by the patient. This guidance provides basic information only. It is not intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

RATIONALE:

Dispatchers are conducting active screening for COVID-19 and will communicate results with fire medics, paramedics and receiving facilities. Firefighters and Paramedics should screen patients to ensure that all measures are being taken to limit the virus spread.

GUIDELINE:

1. Ask the patient the following:
 - Do you have a new fever or new onset of cough or difficulty breathing?
 - Have you travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?
 - Have you had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19?
 - Have you had close contact with anyone with respiratory illness in the past 14 days?
2. If the patient answers yes to any of the above they have screened positive. If all questions are no, then they have screened negative.
3. If the patient screens positive, Firefighters should notify Dispatch via radio to notify both paramedics en route and the receiving facility so that precautions can be taken.
4. For positive screening patients, the responding firefighters should be appropriately protected using Droplet and Contact Precautions including surgical/procedure mask, long sleeved gown, gloves and eye protection.
5. For positive screening patients, the responding firefighters should limit the contact with the patient to one or two care givers.
6. If a patient screens positive on scene, they should be instructed to wear a surgical/procedure mask.
7. All responders should consider that transmission of COVID-19 can occur when performing aerosol-generating procedures.
8. Following transfer to the paramedics, firefighters should continue Droplet and Contact Precautions (surgical/procedure mask, long sleeved gown, gloves and eye protection) until environmental cleaning and decontamination has been completed.
9. All soiled PPE should be discarded in a plastic garbage bag.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all firefighters to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.

REFERENCES:

- COVID-19 Guidance: Paramedic Services version 3, April 1, 2020