

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

10901 GOLD CENTER DR., SUITE 400
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 324-2875



DATE: March 24, 2020

FROM: Dave Duncan MD
Director

SUBJECT: POLICY TO IMPLMENT THE EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION OF THE GOVERNOR TO MAINTAIN MEDICAL WORKFORCE

Pursuant to the Emergency Proclamation of the 16th day of March 2020, N-27-20, by Governor Gavin Newsom, the following procedure is recommended to implement subsection 3 of the Order concerning maintaining medical workforce necessary to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

“3. To address increased demand for healthcare workers and first responders, Emergency Medical Services Authority, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Public Health shall authorize first responders, health and human services care providers and workers who are asymptomatic to continue working during the period of this emergency, subject to those responders, providers, and workers taking precautions to prevent transmission.”

In order to implement the Governor’s order and consistent with the recommendations of the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health, the EMS Authority is recommending prehospital care service providers to implement the following actions:

1. Encourage employees to call in prior to their shift if they are experiencing an illness or COVID-19 or influenza like symptoms. Direct employees to be evaluated by employee wellness or primary care physician before reporting for work.
2. Employers should screen all prehospital care personnel at the beginning of their shift for fever and respiratory symptoms. Actively take their temperature and document absence of shortness of breath, new or change in cough, and sore throat. If the employee is ill or has a fever above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, the employee should be asked to leave the workplace and referred to employee wellness or primary care physician for evaluation before returning to work.
3. Employees who become ill or exhibit COVID-19 or influenza like symptoms while working should be removed from the healthcare setting and referred to an appropriate healthcare provider for evaluation and treatment.

4. Consistent with CDC recommendations prehospital care personnel that have experienced a low, medium, or high-risk exposure¹ to a COVID-19 positive patient and are asymptomatic should be allowed to work. These personnel should still report temperature and absence of symptoms each day prior to starting work and should wear a facemask (surgical or N95) while at work for 14 days after the exposure. If these personnel develop even mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they must cease patient care activities, don a facemask (if not already wearing), and notify their supervisor or occupational health services prior to leaving work.

If you have any questions on this policy, contact COVID19@emsa.ca.gov.

¹ 1 Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>