



**Frederick County, Maryland
Division of Fire and Rescue Services**

SPECIAL ORDER 20-017

Date: April 7, 2020

Page 1 of 2

COVID-19 PPE Guidelines

Overview

With the increase in potential provider exposures and our commitment to provider safety, the Division is revising the Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines previously established in Special Order 20-013 Rev. 1.

PROVIDER PPE

Effective immediately, personnel operating in the Warm or Hot Zone, as identified in SO 20-013 Rev. 1, will don the following PPE on **ALL** calls.

- N95 mask
- Eye protection/Face Shield
- Gloves

If upon arrival the patient meets the criteria for a PUI, any provider with close contact (<6ft of the patient) will don a protective gown in addition to the PPE above.

In addition to the PPE above all providers will don a protective gown when any aerosolized treatment is being administered to any patient. This includes the following procedures: Nebulizer, CPAP, BVM assist or patient intubations.

Personnel operating in the Cold Zone shall not wear a N95 mask, as we must continue to conserve these much-needed masks.

All other portions of Special Order 20-013 Rev. 1 remains in effect.

On all Fire and Rescue incidents personnel entering the Warm or Hot Zone shall be in the above listed PPE unless the incident warrants "FULL" structural PPE including the "use" of SCBA.

PPE DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURE

With the ongoing worldwide shortage of personal protective equipment and the challenges it presents with purchasing new PPE, many studies have been conducted regarding processes to decontaminate PPE for re-use. DFRS has worked with Curis (our ambulance Decontamination System manufacturer) to develop operational procedures to decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and potentially gowns and Tyvek suits. The initial focus will be on N95 masks as they are used most often.

As we continue to work out the logistics of such an operation, we are going to begin collecting N95. In the doffing room at FHH, there will be a recycle container on wheels that will be for collecting eligible masks ONLY. No trash or other items shall be placed in these containers.

Ineligible N95 mask criteria:

- Masks worn in the back of an ambulance (or similar size enclosed space) during an aerosolization treatment, or worn within 6ft of such a procedure. Such procedures include, Nebulizer, CPAP, BVM assist, or patient intubations.
- Masks that are wet or soiled (blood, vomit, secretions, dirt, etc.).
- Masks that are damaged or breathing became difficult.

Ineligible masks will be discard with your other PPE as described in SO 20-013 Rev. 1.

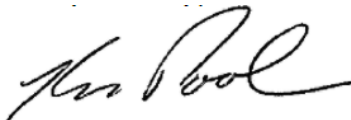
All other (eligible) masks shall be placed in the recycle container at FHH. For units not involved in transport to FHH, eligible masks can be placed in the patient compartment of the transporting ambulance so they can be placed in the recycle container at FHH. For non-transport calls the eligible masks can be stored at the station in a sealed **paper** bag for pick up by logistics as part of their normal delivery schedule. Do not place used masks in a plastic bag.

N95 Distribution and Replenishment

DFRS staff is in the process of delivering one box (20 masks) to each ambulance and special unit in the county. Personnel assigned to other apparatus can get a mask from the ambulance when needed on a call.

DFRS Supervisors will continue to replace masks on a 1 for 1 basis when they are on those calls. Personnel shall ensure each ambulance has a minimum of five N95 masks but not more than 20 at all times. Until such time the Division has an adequate supply of N95 masks requests for additional masks shall go through the appropriate on-duty Battalion Chief and they will arrange replenishment.

Questions regarding this order shall be directed to Deputy Chief Kenny Poole.



BY ORDER OF: _____

Division Signature