

Guidelines for Law Enforcement during the COVID-19 Pandemic

RESPONDING OFFICER GUIDELINES:

Officers should follow the below guidance only when it does not jeopardize officer safety.

Routine response:

- If possible, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet when conducting routine interviews and contacts.
- When searching subjects that are not immediately placed under arrest or otherwise require a close physical presence to maintain officer safety, return to maintaining a 6-foot distance after the search.
- Practice proper hand hygiene. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol after each contact.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Learn your employer's plan for exposure control and participate in all-hands training on the use of PPE for respiratory protection, if available.

If contacting someone suspected of having COVID-19:

- If possible don a mask (surgical, N-95, or higher-level respirator), eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face, (personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection), and a single pair of disposable patient examination gloves.
- If subject is compliant, provide them with a surgical style mask and ask them to wear it during the contact.

If arresting someone suspected of having COVID-19

- If possible don a mask (surgical, N-95 or higher-level respirator), eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face (personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection), and a single pair of disposable patient examination gloves.
- If arrestee is compliant, place a surgical style mask on the arrestee.
- If arrestee is not compliant, place a spit hood on arrestee, if available.
- Transport subject in a cage car with a full frontal Lexan or polycarbonate prisoner cage separating officer from arrestee (not rubber coated expanded metal) and keep the pass through window closed.

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- Place HVAC system in non-recirculated mode and fan on high to maximize air changes that reduce potentially infectious particles in the vehicle.
- Give detention facility advanced notification of possible COVID-19 arrestee arrival as early as possible.
- Leave arrestee in vehicle until detention facility is prepared for prisoner handoff.
- If possible, leave doors of transport vehicle open after transport of prisoner to allow for sufficient air changes to remove potentially infectious particles.
 - The time to complete transfer of the prisoner to the receiving facility and complete all documentation should provide sufficient air changes if the vehicle is outside.
- Clean the vehicle.
 - When cleaning the vehicle, staff should wear a disposable gown and gloves. A face shield or facemask and goggles should also be worn if splashes or sprays during cleaning are anticipated.
- Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly, to include the provision of adequate ventilation when chemicals are in use. Doors should remain open when cleaning the vehicle. All surfaces that may have come in contact with the prisoner or materials contaminated during arrest should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using an EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant in accordance with the product label.
- Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear using a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the product label.
- Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE. Reusable PPE such as safety glasses will be decontaminated before reuse.
- If possible, change into a clean uniform and place the soiled uniform into a plastic bag and launder normally (avoid shaking clothes), at a minimum remove uniform before getting into POV.
- Call your Primary Care Physician if you have fever or sign/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (cough and/or shortness of breath) within 14 days of having direct contact with known COVID-19 patient without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza). Call TCHD at 720-200-1505 for the latest guidelines for testing First Responders/Medical Staff with suspected COVID-19.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

- Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) have contact with individuals who have or may have COVID-19.

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- Provide staff with the necessary PPE, including providing disposable surgical style masks for staff to provide to suspect COVID-19 patients they may contact.
- Provide necessary cleaning products and ensure that staff has time to clean vehicles, gear, and spaces after contact with a suspected COVID-19 patient.
- Develop procedure for jail nurse/medical staff to submit specimens for COVID-19 testing and how to obtain results of those tests.
- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home and send home employees who are sick.
- Promote proper hygiene and provide hand sanitizer at locations that promote its use.
- Enhance cleaning procedures at all facilities. [HERE](#) is detailed cleaning guidance from the CDC.
 - Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
 - Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks) can be wiped down by employees before each use.