

Friday Night (under the) Lights...

Twenty - twenty

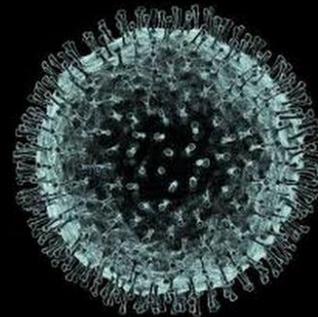


Happy Friday...

What a week. EM ground & air continue to strategize and prepare for increasing numbers of potential 2019-nCoV patients (PUI) or actual laboratory confirmed patients.

The CDC just released their Interim Guidance specifically targeting 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and Emergency Medical Services. The Guidance doesn't change any of the CDC's previous recommendations, but it does add some specific details to our approaches. Specifically:

- There is an emphasis on communications between all levels of care – when feasible, each successive care provider should be notified of a confirmed, or potential, 2019-nCoV patient.
- Involvement of the EMS Medical Director in all aspects of decision making regarding evaluation & management of these patients
- Consideration of changes in 911 call-taking processes (called modified caller queries) to better ascertain the potential for an infected patient (side note, several of our EMD Centers have initiated the Travel Question assessment question during call intake).
- A recommendation to begin patient assessment from 6 feet, when possible. If the patient has risk factors (travel) and appropriate symptoms, they should have a surgical mask placed as soon as possible. A mask may be placed over a nasal cannula.
- Reinforces Standard / Contact / Airborne precautions with eye protection.
- Drivers (I would specifically add pilots), if they assist in or provide direct patient care (e.g., moving patients onto stretchers), should wear all recommended PPE . After completing patient care and before entering an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove and dispose of PPE and perform hand hygiene to avoid soiling the compartment.



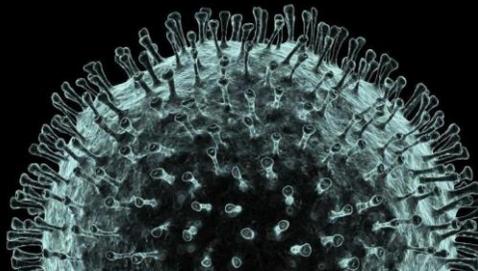
- If the transport vehicle does **not** have an isolated driver's compartment, the driver (or pilot) should remove the face shield or goggles, gown and gloves and perform hand hygiene. A respirator should continue to be used during transport.
- Don't touch your face while working (probably shouldn't touch your partner's face either...)
- If possible, the rear doors of the transport vehicle should be opened and the HVAC system should be activated during aerosol-generating procedures.
- After transporting the patient, leave the rear doors of the transport vehicle open to allow for sufficient air changes to remove potentially infectious particles.
- When cleaning the vehicle (ambulance / aircraft), EMS clinicians 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.

The remainder of the Interim Guidance provides information on coordinating with public health and the processes to manage any potential exposure.

The most important thing to remember?

Same as it has been.

Protect yourself with the principles and practices we use every single day.



So, it's 11:12 PM Central Time and as hard as I try – I can't make my brain remember what else I wanted to talk about tonight. I can't actually make my brain do much period.

But here's the great news.

I've learned a lot from my Legal Colleagues over the years and tonight I get to use one of their most valued tools...

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- *Epilogue...*

A married man was having an affair with his secretary.

One day, their passions overcame them in the office and they took off for her house. Exhausted from the afternoon's activities, they fell asleep and awoke at around 8 p.m.

As the man threw on his clothes, he told the woman to take his shoes outside and rub them through the grass and dirt. Confused, she nonetheless complied and he slipped into his shoes and drove home.

"Where have you been?" demanded his wife when he entered the house.

"Darling," replied the man, "I can't lie to you. I've been having an affair with my secretary. I fell asleep in her bed and didn't wake up until eight o'clock.

"The wife glanced down at his shoes and said, "You liar! You've been playing golf!"

So, that's it from my World. Happy Friday.

Thanks to my Lawyer buddies for their help on content...



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