



Joint Guidance for the Florida Fire Service General Guidance

Fire service employers and fire service employees should ensure the following general principles are being used in the workplace:

- Employees should clean their hands often.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette principles. Always cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and wash your hands thoroughly afterward.
- When possible, avoid close contact with other people by maintaining a distance of 6 feet between each other.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, chairs, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Employers should develop sick-leave policies for personnel that are non-punitive, flexible, and consistent with public health guidance.
- Employees should stay home if they are sick, except to get medical care.
- Employers should review and update their exposure control plan and employees should be familiar with the exposure control plan.
- Employers should plan for isolation of employees NOW, before it happens. Employers should develop a plan for possible self-isolation of employees that may be exposed ON or OFF-DUTY.
- Employees that have traveled internationally, to areas with COVID-19 outbreaks, or returned from a cruise should self-monitor for 14 days
- Employers should ensure that EMS clinicians are educated, trained, and have practiced the appropriate use of PPE prior to caring for a patient, including attention to correct use of PPE and prevention of contamination of clothing, skin, and environment during the process of donning and doffing such equipment.
- Employers should maintain an adequate supply of N-95 masks, eye shields, gowns, gloves, and surgical masks and monitor the availability of these items with their medical supply vendors.
- Employers should maintain an adequate supply of or access to EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectants for adequate decontamination of EMS transport vehicles and their contents.
- Employees should use personal protective equipment (PPE) whenever there is an expectation of possible exposure. This includes wearing a mask or respirator, eye protection and/or a face shield, gloves, a gown and/or a protective outer garment.
- Employees should properly handle, clean, and disinfect individual care equipment, instruments, and devices. Any items that are not disposable and come into contact with an individual who potentially may be infected must be cleaned and disinfected. This includes, but is not limited to portable radios, pens, laptops, clipboards, etc. Items that are disposable must be disposed of properly.
- Employers should consider establishing an ON-SHIFT Safety/Infection Control Officer (ICO). This individual could respond to pertinent calls, remain in the “warm zone” and monitor radio traffic, act as a liaison with the communication center (dispatch) to make sure protocols and procedures are being followed, donning/doffing of PPE, and decontamination procedures.
- Employers should consider implementing an additional “doorway triage” in which the responder remains outside the structure, at least six feet away from the patient, if possible, and verifies that the occupants of the structure are not infected, exposed, or experiencing symptoms.
- Employees should minimize patient contact until a facemask is on the patient.

BE SAFE