



# Santa Clara Police

## Training Flash



### Coronavirus Prevention, Preparedness, & Response

**Training Flash:** 2020-03

Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Patients with COVID-19** have had mild to severe respiratory illness.

- Data suggests that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Symptoms can include fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath.
- The virus causing COVID-19 is called SARS-CoV-2. It is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person via respiratory droplets among close contacts. Respiratory droplets are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can land in the mouths or noses, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs, of people who are nearby. Close contact may include:
  - Being within approximately 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time.
  - Having direct contact with body fluids (such as blood, phlegm, and respiratory droplets) from an individual with COVID-19.

#### To protect yourself from exposure

- If possible, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet.
- Practice proper hand hygiene. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available and illicit drugs are NOT suspected to be present, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Have a trained Emergency Medical Service/ Emergency Medical Technician (EMS/EMT) assess and transport anyone you think might have COVID-19 to a healthcare facility.
- Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) have contact with individuals who have or may have COVID-19.
- Learn your employer's plan for exposure control and participate in all-hands training on the use of PPE for respiratory protection, if available.

## Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Law enforcement who must make contact with individuals confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 should follow [CDC's Interim Guidance for EMS](#). Different styles of PPE may be necessary to perform operational duties. These alternative styles (i.e. coveralls) must provide protection that is at least as great as that provided by the minimum amount of PPE recommended.

The minimum PPE recommended is:

- A single pair of disposable examination gloves,
- Disposable isolation gown or single use/disposable coveralls\*,
- Any NIOSH-approved particulate respirator (i.e., N-95 or higher-level respirator), and
- Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face)

\*If unable to wear a disposable gown or coveralls because it limits access to duty belt and gear, ensure duty belt and gear are disinfected after contact with individual.

### If close contact occurred during apprehension

- Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse using a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the product label.
- Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE.
- Follow standard operating procedures for containing and laundering clothes. Avoid shaking the clothes

Additionally, Communications has updated their call taking procedures, which now include asking callers who report a fever and/or breathing issues if they have traveled or been in contact with someone who has travelled outside of the country within 14 days. If the caller has, Dispatchers will use the phrase “**Positive Travel History**” in the call detail.

As an added precaution, the PD has personal protective equipment (PPE) ready for deployment, which include an abundant supply of N95 protective face masks. The masks will be kept in the Watch Commanders office and issued when needed.

In consultation with the County EMS Director, officers exposed or potentially exposed to Coronavirus must:

1. Immediately notify your supervisor.
2. Wash your hands and red tag your vehicle to be disinfected.
3. Fill out exposure paperwork.
4. Track the exposure by having Officer(s) call the watch commander twice a day to check in and update their status (even on workdays). The following symptoms are key indicators of possible infection:
  - The major sign is fever 100.7 degrees or higher
  - Bad cough (Hacking)
  - Weakness and shortness of breath.

If these symptoms are present, the PD will most likely choose to send the employee home for 14 days.