



Training Bulletin

SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT



LORI LUHNOW, Chief of Police

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SBPD Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

OVERVIEW:

As the COVID-19 virus, aka “Coronavirus,” has continued to spread within the United States, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department in conjunction with the County Emergency Medical Services Agency has issued an advisory on dealing with possible Coronavirus patients. Santa Barbara County Public Health Department is the lead agency in our County handling this potential outbreak. Please note, this is an emerging illness and Staff is working to stay on top of the daily changes.

Attached to the email containing this training bulletin are the following documents:

1. Advisory for PSAP Travel Screening Tool
2. County Public Health Provider Alert
3. **EMS Personnel Advisory Notice**
4. COVID Monitoring 1 & 2

Please review the documents to familiarize yourself with symptomology and information pertaining to the Coronavirus.

Role of Dispatch:

Our dispatch center has implemented travel screening tools to aid in preparing first responders, should they be sent to a call where a subject is suspected of being infected with the Coronavirus. The EMD program is now populated to ask specific questions associated with the Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) tool. If this virus continues to spread, we expect further changes to the screening protocols.

If a patient presents on 911 with shortness of breath and/or “sick” or ‘ill”, emergency medical dispatch protocols will direct them to additional screening questions consistent with EIDS screening. Answers to the questions will be populated into the MDC’s, and to further ensure that the message is relayed, dispatchers have been asked to advise first responders to, “check your MDC for a message.” It is imperative that nothing is stated over a radio, potentially violating patient confidentiality and creating undue attention and anxiety in the community.

If a Police unit does not have an MDC, the officer will be asked to call into Dispatch directly, so that the information can be provided.

Role of LE:

If Officers are notified by Dispatch that COVID-19 is suspected to be involved with any of the subjects related to their call for service, the officer should don PPE prior to their arrival on scene.

PPE includes: N95 Mask, Gloves and Goggles.

Hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer should be used as soon as possible once PPEs have been doffed. Hands should be washed for a minimum of 20-30 seconds. Additionally, Officers should also refrain from touching their faces.

Used PPE should be doffed and placed inside a red biohazard bag. There is a biohazard container in the SBPD Decontamination room located off the east driveway, where Officers can deposit their biohazard bags.

In the event of an In-Custody...

In the event Officers respond to a call for service (non-medical related) and the subject arrested displays signs/symptoms of possibly being infected with the Coronavirus, officers should use hand sanitizer and don PPE, as well as place an N95 mask on the In-Custody.

Officer's should then utilize the SBCEMSA Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance Tool flow chart questionnaire (provided below). If the In-Custody's responses lead to the, "Patient Meets Travel Advisory Criteria" box, the In-Custody will need to be transported to Cottage Hospital (320 W. Pueblo St.), to be evaluated. Cottage Emergency Department should be contacted prior to arrival. The patient will likely be placed in a specialized room/location and advanced notice is imperative. Their number is 805-569-7210.

If Cottage personnel clears the In-Custody and provides a medical clearance for them, then the In-Custody will be transported to SB County Jail.

The criteria regarding AMR's use in assisting PD personnel with transportation has not changed with the development of the Coronavirus.

Officers will be conducting their own transports, regardless if the In-Custody shows signs/symptoms or is suspected of being infected with the Coronavirus, even after completing the SBCEMSA flow chart questionnaire.

*If it is later discovered that a subject diagnosed with Coronavirus was transported via a PD vehicle, AMR has the ability to sterilize the vehicle and will do so for SBPD. Watch Commanders and Sergeants will have the contact information for AMR, should a police vehicle need to be sterilized due to a Coronavirus exposure.

If an In-Custody is not cleared by Cottage personnel, because they believe the In-Custody may be infected with the Coronavirus, the disposition of the In-Custody will be determined on a case by case basis, via you and your supervisor.

All first responders and medical providers are being requested to **immediately contact Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Disease Control Program to evaluate a suspected case for testing. Call 24/7: 805-681-5280**

Be aware that SBSO County Jail has their own screening methods regarding the Coronavirus (which includes the SBCEMSA flow chart questionnaire). If your In-Custody is rejected by County Jail due to a possible Coronavirus infection, Officers will need to transport the In-Custody to Cottage Hospital for evaluation. The same protocol described above still applies.

PPE

PPE kits have been made for each Officer to use should they respond to a call for service where a subject(s) is suspected of being infected with the Coronavirus.

Those who are assigned to patrol will find their kits labeled and in the Murphy Room. All other teams have had their kits delivered.

The kit will include: a N95 mask, goggles, hand sanitizer (for those currently assigned to patrol) and a red biohazard disposable bag. Officers should already have proper fitting gloves with them at the start of their shift.

Each PD vehicle will also have a kit that contains: a N95 mask, a red biohazard disposable bag, a black trash bag and goggles. This kit should be used for In-Custody subjects who are suspected of being infected with the Coronavirus.