



## Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

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DATE: March 6, 2020  
TO: WSCFF Members  
FROM: Tim Hoover, WSCFF 3<sup>rd</sup> District Representative  
IAFF Standing EMS Committee  
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SUBJ: COVID-19 Quick Tips

- Dispatch should be prescreening ALL patients for fever, flu like symptoms, cough or respiratory distress.

If yes to any of the above questions, dispatch shall advise crews to utilize full PPE consisting of gloves, goggles, gowns, N95 or higher mask. Place a facemask on the patient, if tolerated.

- Follow recommended CDC steps for donning and doffing PPE.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/PPE-Sequence.pdf>
- Limit the number of providers in the room, do a “doorway” assessment of the patient and other people in the room for fever, cough, signs of flu like symptoms. Add PPE and personnel as needed.
- Limit treatment, or be extremely cautious, if medical control will not allow modified treatment of patients with respiratory support needs, such as nebulized medications, suction or intubation.
- If your transport unit does not have an isolated driver compartment it is recommended that after the driver assists with patient care they should properly remove their PPE outside away from the patient. Perform hand hygiene. Don N95 or higher mask. Drive to the hospital. Don full PPE again prior to assisting with patient transfer.

While transporting the patient it is recommended to utilize the vehicles patient compartment exhaust fan.

- Medical equipment should be disposed of if possible or cleaned per manufacturers recommendations with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens cleaning agents.

**Please review the IAFF toolkit and CDC website frequently for up to date information**