



STANDARD OPERATION PROTOCOL

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| Benton Fire Department | COVID-19 | Effective Date: 3/17/20 SOG # COVID001 Approved: <i>Shane Cockrum</i> <i>Fire Chief</i> |
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The protocols listed below include procedures for in-station, on -scene and in-public.

The following shall be protocol during all dept. activities and requests for service when keywords “**Sick, Fever, Flu-like, difficulty breathing, cough, sore throat, general weakness**” are used by either private telephone or the 911 system.

Responders shall be cognizant of these keywords and treat them with the utmost importance and situational awareness to minimize the threat to exposure to COVID-19.

In- Station

All non-essential business shall be handled by telephone. Family member and friend visits shall be kept to a minimum.

All doors to the dept. shall remain locked to outside visitors during this time. If access is permitted to members or visitors, those individuals shall sign in and record body temps by way of infrared forehead thermometer. Any visitor or member with 100.4 or above shall be immediately asked to leave and contact primary care provider and shall not return until permitted by doctor.

All members reporting for duty shall arrive in street clothing and change into duty clothing during shift times and shall remove clothing at end of shift with washing to be done at station.

All POC members should prepare to have clothing worn on a call of a suspect case decontaminated on scene and should have alternate clothing available in personal vehicle or at station. Said clothing shall be washed in station so to limit exposure to family and public.

Decontamination of station shall happen daily and after each suspect case.

On-Scene

Any request for service using the keywords as stated above shall be treated in the following way:

1. Only 1 responder shall make patient contact and shall have a mask of N95, Surgical, Dust or equivalent, gloves and donned.
2. Initial patient contact shall exercise “Social Distancing” and keep a minimum of 6 ft of distance



3. Information gathering shall be of “Pertinent Questioning” nature and shall begin as,

Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening, I am _____ from the Benton Fire Department, I have a few questions to ask before I proceed for the safety of both yourself and my members.

Questions shall be as such

- a. Have you traveled outside of Franklin County in the last 14 days? If yes,
- b. Where have you traveled? If Outside of US,
- c. Have you been exposed so someone with Flu-like symptoms?
- d. Do you have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID-19?

If **Yes**, Don complete BSI (Body Substance Isolation) including Mask, Gown/Tyvek, Face shield, gloves for all interior members and begin patient assessment including Temp check and patient mask placement.

If **No**, continue with basic BSI, gloves and mask and check for body temp of 100.4 and above. Should temp check meet 100.4 or above, all members shall don full BSI before proceeding with assessment.

If patient has no signs/symptoms or temp, proceed as a normal patient with basic BSI measures.

Advise EMS Transport of patient statements and condition of patient.

Discarding of BSI shall be done outside and in outside trash while minimizing cross-contamination.

Patient Refusal

Should patient refuse medical treatment and transport, provide patient with COVID Hotline of 1-800-889-3931 and recommend making phone contact with patient’s primary care provider.

Transport

Transport of a suspected individual shall include the following:

1. Full BSI through duration by all responders other than driver.
2. Driver shall close door between treatment area and vehicle cab for transport.
3. Driver shall make no patient contact any time without Full BSI.
4. Patient call in shall include patient symptoms and level of BSI of transport agency.
5. Care shall be taken to move patient into facility only after direct orders have been given by facility staff and to what location within facility.

