



GMR COVID-19 Workplace Protection Guidance Update

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves and we learn more about transmission of the virus and efforts to prevent spread, we continue to evaluate and implement best practices for personal protection as guided by the CDC and our GMR Medicine and Safety colleagues. As our work environments begin to change again based on community public health initiatives and more states remove “Shelter-in-Place” orders, we are providing the following updated guidance.

This guidance is based on several important principles (and will evolve if/when there is updated guidance). Those basic principles include:

- At this point, it is impossible to know with certainty that someone is or is not infected with COVID-19 based on symptoms alone.
- Self-protection remains the most important tool to prevent exposure.
- Any individual who develops symptoms (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing OR develops at least two of these symptoms – fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell) should immediately notify their supervisor and go home when safe.
- Testing for the PRESENCE of the virus (nasal swab) shows that an individual is infected.
- Current antibody tests (blood tests) are in development and are not currently recommended for determining an individual’s infection or immunity status.
- Social (Physical) Distancing is very effective at decreasing spread of illness.

To maximize the potential for appropriate protection of GMR Personnel at this point, the following PPE Guidelines should be implemented:

DIRECT PATIENT CARE PROVIDERS

- When responding to a call where the patient’s status is suspected or known COVID-19 positive, you should continue to follow the [PPE Policy for Known or Suspected COVID-19 Patients](#).
- For all other requests for service, all responding employees should wear gloves, goggles and **a procedure mask**.

- When not on calls, wear a surgical mask and maintain appropriate Social (Physical) Distancing as you are moving within the community between calls. We understand normal operations of air, ground, fire responses require crew members/partners to be closely working together less than the standard Social (Physical) Distancing guidelines.
- Caregiver operations personnel will also continue the guidelines to disinfect ambulances and equipment after all patient transports.

OFFICE LOCATIONS ATTACHED TO CLINICAL OPERATIONS

- Employees that do not need to work out of the Operation's offices should remain working from home.
- Personnel who are located at operations and dispatch locations should wear cloth or surgical masks and maintain appropriate Social (Physical) Distancing at all times on campus. This includes Mechanics, VST's, clinical and human resources staff.
- Operations should also continue appropriate facility cleaning and disinfecting guidelines.

OFFICE LOCATIONS NOT ATTACHED TO CLINICAL OPERATIONS

- Support offices that are not co-located with caregiver locations should continue as you have been (whether from home or occasionally to the office) until other timelines or guidance is provided for those specific facilities.
- A cross-functional committee has been established to review every aspect of creating safe work environments for all of our employees as they establish timelines and guidelines for returning to offices.
- The committee is reviewing safety protocols and procedures, the readiness of our physical environments and remote work policies and effectiveness.
- When we are ready to return employees back into the office, we will provide at least two weeks' notice, along with specific information on how you can work safely in the office. We will provide our next update on June 1.

There may be circumstances when these guidelines will be modified based on specific situations. We continue to monitor the science and guidelines on a daily basis.

Our highest priority is the safety of our crews, team members and our patients. Please contact your Safety and Risk manager if you have questions about this or any of the guidelines.

We're grateful for all your efforts during this challenging time. Above everything else, please keep yourselves, your colleagues, your family and our patients safe.



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