



**New York City Fire Department
Bureau of EMS**

When responding refer to Buckslip No.: **EMS-20-03-23**

Buckslip Date: 3/18/2020

Ref. No:

Date Logged: 3/18/2020

To: All EMS Commands

Subject: CORONAVIRUS UPDATE - QUARANTINE PROCEDURE

Action: FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION
For Distribution / Posting

Remarks Commanding Officers to Post at Assigned Stations / Divisions and to be
Read at all Roll Calls

cc's:

Due Date:

Lillian Bonsignore
Chief of EMS

Filed: EMS Operations
LB/RC/ja



FDNY

Lillian Bonsignore
Chief of EMS

TO: All Division Commands

FROM: Lillian Bonsignore Chief of EMS

DATE: March 18, 2020 Buckslip No.: **EMS OPS - 20-03-23**

SUBJECT: **Coronavirus Update – Quarantine Procedure**

Sustained community transmission of COVID19 is present in our city. In this context, all New Yorkers, including our families, should consider themselves as possibly exposed to COVID19 and should therefore self-monitor for symptoms (see below) at least daily. Healthcare workers (including Fire and EMS) are at risk for unrecognized exposure within the community and at work, and therefore should self-monitor for symptoms at least twice daily. With sustained community exposures already occurring, quarantining asymptomatic persons to prevent exposure to others (what we call containment) is of little value because the likelihood is that you and everyone have already been exposed during every day activities. The bug is out of the box.

Instead of quarantining to limit exposures between asymptomatic persons who are likely to already have been exposed, we need to isolate symptomatic people who are the most likely to spread disease. For more information, see: <http://diamondplate.fdnyc.org/ofc/fdny-covid-19-change-quarantine-procedure>

For this reason, CDC and NYS DOH and NYC DOHMH now advise healthcare facilities to allow asymptomatic workers to continue to work even after exposure to a confirmed positive COVID19 patient.

Asymptomatic healthcare workers can remain at work with twice daily symptom checks (see below). This recommendation applies even to high risk exposures defined as no PPE or PPE breach when in close contact to a positive patient during an aerosol generating procedure (CPR, intubation, nebulization).

Because of our unique work conditions, FDNY will continue to quarantine members after high risk exposures. Asymptomatic members will remain full duty after all other exposures; you may file an MDX3 bio-exposure report, but it is not necessary as FDNY is entering a global MDX3 for every member of the department as we did with the WTC.

You must perform symptom checks at the beginning and end of the tour.

If symptoms occur, members should not report to work or if at work immediately stop, notify their supervisor and BHS, self-isolate at home away from household members to whatever extent possible, and if symptoms are severe or worsening see their healthcare provider. In contrast to those exposed who we no longer quarantine, those who are ill should be isolated for 2 reasons – once you have symptoms you are the most likely to spread disease to others and staying home with supportive flu-like care allows most people to recover. For medical leave determinations, a COVID19 test is not required because false negatives may occur and treatment would not be altered as long as symptoms are not severe or worsening.

Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID19 illness include NEW onset

- Measured temperature (100F or greater). If a thermometer is not available, then a subjective feeling of febrile is acceptable and defined as “feeling hot compared to room temperature or your forehead feeling hot when touched by the BACK of your hand.”
- cough
- shortness of breath
- sore throat
- flu-like symptoms

Any one of the above symptoms that is not attributable to a previously recognized condition would trigger medical leave.

We will soon be implementing mandatory symptom checks at the beginning and end of each tour and daily if on medical leave for COVID-like illness or during quarantine. We recommend that you self-monitor without mandatory reporting when off-duty.

Remember, the new norm is:

- Social distancing staying at least 6 feet away from others
- Wash hands frequently
- Decon surfaces with either diluted alcohol, diluted bleach or other approved disinfectant solutions. Specialized decon is not needed.

This is a dynamic time and we will continue to keep our protocols and procedures current and consistent with the science.

So, if you are sick stay home and if you are well come to work because our city needs us more now than ever.