



West Elgin Fire Department Memorandum

To: All Personnel
Cc: Chief Al Beer , District Chief Wally Kauzen
From: District Chief John D Campbell
Date: March 24, 2020
Subject: **Covid-19 Updates 1**

Station 1 and 2 Officers: Please review the following information and document that each firefighter has received this information

To all Staff Members:

The information in regards to Covid-19 continues to be very dynamic. The flow of information from Federal, Provincial, Regional and Municipal governments and agencies has been continuous. We have been forwarding out all information that has an impact on how we conduct our business. We are doing the best we can to keep this information condensed and easy to understand and I would like to thank all staff that have been reading, and following this information.

For the sake of the health, safety and welfare of all staff, their families and the public we must be diligent in following the most current recommended practices. Please ensure you are educating yourself on the directives, guidelines, and procedures we are sending out and the ones that have already been in place for some time. **If you are a Supervisor, I remind you that you are required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker.** Reading department communications and following the direction of Administration are certainly considered reasonable precautions. Changes in information and protocols will begin to slow down once best practices have been proven and the situation surrounding this virus stabilizes.

To review what we are doing:

Snuffer/ Unit # 3 will respond to incidents with no more than 2 firefighters for lift assist with EMS.

When dispatched to an incident where patient care may have to be performed (medicals, MVC's, industrial accidents etc.) perform a risk assessment based on the information dispatch provides and decide on the level of PPE to be worn.

When Paramedics are on scene prior to Fire at a medical response regardless of Dispatch screen information, stage 1 and wait for Paramedics to call you in or advise you to clear.

When Fire is first on scene and dispatch screen is negative for COVID-19:

The Officer in Charge and one firefighter will approach the scene maintaining at least 2 m of special separation, firefighter performs assessment and determines resource requirement. If additional firefighters are required for patient care, they will be called to approach by the Officer.

When Fire is first on scene and dispatch screen is positive for COVID-19:

The Officer in Charge and one firefighter will don appropriate PPE (gloves, N95, glasses, gown, or Tyvek suit), and defer patient care unless an Airway, Breathing or Circulation (CAB) issue is presenting (i.e.: cardiac arrest, and CPR or not breathing and bag valve mask ventilation required).

When responding to a building for an emergency other than a medical response, please conduct a risk assessment prior to entering a building. If you feel you will be at risk for infection, wear appropriate PPE and limit time and number of personnel inside the building.

Always follow the direction of your District Chiefs in regards to station protocols, cleaning, and disinfecting etc.

In regards to exposures: if appropriate PPE is donned properly prior to patient contact, doffed properly a safe distance from the patient after care has been given, and disinfection protocol is followed, you have not been exposed.

Exposure is outlined in section 6 of Infection Control.

The following attached documents are the most important documents to read, learn, and follow currently:

1. West Elgin Fire and Emergency Services COVID-19 Screening Tool- There is a laminated copy in all medical response capable of fire apparatus-To be used when fire is first on scene and makes patient contact discovering the patient was a negative screen through dispatch screening and now there is a communicable risk. Page two has excerpts from the Memorandum above.
2. West Elgin Fire and Emergency Services-Operation Guideline Infection Control-Provides guidance for infection prevention, decontamination and exposure.
3. Fire Station Cleaning and Disinfection (Author: Neil Wootton)
4. PPE Don/Doff instructions

Thank you,

John Campbell
District Chief West Elgin Station # 2