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 **Dayton MMRS GMVEMSC**

**COVID-19 BULLETIN 14 (revised to cover JITSO): PANDEMIC REOPENING**

**Per the Greater Miami Valley EMS Council Standing Orders Chair Dr. Marriott and Co-Chair Chief Russell, GMVEMSC COVID Pandemic JITSO # 1 from March 18, 2020 is revoked.  Agencies are encouraged to use the guidance in MMRS-GMVEMSC COVID-19 Bulletin 14.**

This information is intended for use by EMS agencies and personnel. Use of any or all of this bulletin is at the discretion of each agency.

First and foremost, personnel must remember that the pandemic is not over. COVID-19 is a horrific disease that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans, left others disabled, and sickened millions more.

We strongly encourage everyone in EMS, and as vaccines become available for appropriate age groups, your family members, to be vaccinated as soon as possible. It is our hope that each of you will be a “vaccine champion,” encouraging others you know to be vaccinated.

EMS Agency Guidelines

* Supervisors should continue to monitor employees for COVID-19 symptoms
* Allow personnel to leave work while on duty for the time needed to obtain the COVID-19 vaccination
* Reopen areas to the public (according to prior practice)
	+ Cease to require masks for vaccinated employees and visitors
	+ Continue to offer masks to non-personnel if requested, and request persons who appear ill to put on a mask
* Resume routine public education events and fire inspections
* Resume in-person trainings and meetings or continue to use virtual or remote learning platforms for trainings and meetings
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily, including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
* Continue to require quarantine of unvaccinated personnel who have close contact unless wearing appropriate PPE. Close contact while wearing PPE is not considered to be an exposure. Quarantine is not required after close contact for personnel who are “fully vaccinated”
	+ Close contact is defined as spending more than 15 minutes (cumulative) in 24 hours within six feet of an infected person:
		- Within 48-hours before symptoms developed or the person received a positive test result, or
		- During the 10 days after the person developed symptoms of COVID-19, or
		- During the 10 days after a person was tested for COVID and received a positive result
* Remove any signage requiring screening other than of agency personnel

All EMS Personnel Guidelines

* Continue to wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating
* Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues, then throw the tissues in the trash
* Self-monitor health and be alert for symptoms of COVID-19
* Remember that the steps we have all taken to protect against COVID will also protect us during cold and flu season and protect us from many other illnesses
* Personnel in the process of becoming vaccinated and those who remain unvaccinated are still required to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing while at work

Unvaccinated EMS Personnel Guidelines

* If unvaccinated, wear surgical masks (not cloth face coverings) while in close contact (less than six feet) with others with the same exceptions as in previous guidance
	+ Police, fire, and EMS personnel are not required to wear a mask even if unvaccinated when wearing a face covering would interfere with or limit their ability to carry out their official duties or functions
* Strongly consider getting all recommended vaccines, especially COVID vaccine

Fully Vaccinated EMS Personnel Guidelines

* Congratulations on getting vaccinated! In general, people are considered “fully vaccinated”
	+ 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series (e.g., Pfizer or Moderna vaccines), or
	+ 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine
	+ If you do not meet these requirements, then you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking ALL [precautions](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html) until you are fully vaccinated
* If you are “fully vaccinated”:
	+ You can gather indoors without wearing a mask or practicing social distancing
	+ You may ride in agency/department vehicles without a mask
* You can gather or conduct activities outdoors without wearing a mask or practicing social distancing
* Watch out for [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html), especially if you have been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get [tested](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html) and [stay home](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html) and away from others
* Follow other EMS agency guidance
* People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken the immune system should talk to their healthcare provider to discuss their activities. They may need to keep taking all [precautions](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html) to prevent COVID-19

Patient Care

* All crewmembers (regardless of vaccination status) must wear at least a surgical mask for **all** patient encounters
* Unvaccinated personnel should continue to wear a surgical mask, an N95 mask, or PAPR and eye protection for all patient care interactions
* Crews performing aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs) or while performing patient care **inside** the ambulance should wear N95 or PAPR and eye protection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated
* Discontinue routine use of the “scout” system (only one or two personnel in close contact with the patient or complainant) unless indicated for other reasons
* **ALL EMS patients** (NOT just suspected COVID-19 patients) will continue to be given surgical masks (also called isolation masks) and must be wearing masks on hospital entry
* Continue to notify hospitals as requested when transporting suspected COVID-19 patients. At the present time, Kettering Health facilities are requesting those notifications. Premier Health requests notification only for critical patients or those receiving AGPs
* Return to permitting a family member or companion to be transported with the patient as appropriate. Such companions should be offered a surgical mask, and if the EMS driver is unvaccinated, the driver is required to be masked
	+ Many hospitals require companions to enter through a separate entrance. Companions **must** wear masks when entering the hospital
* Companions demonstrating infectious symptoms such as fever, cough, illness should not be transported unless being treated as an additional patient in the patient compartment
* Continue frequent decontamination of the inside of all public safety vehicles
* Discontinue “extended use” of masks or other PPE, including reuse and temporary storage of masks
* If a patient asks about your vaccination status while you are caring for them, you should respond respectfully, but you are not required to disclose medical, religious, or other personal information
* EMS riders/observers will follow all the same guidelines as agency/department personnel
* Continue to document all PPE use in run reports
* If your EMS agency made changes to your resuscitation or transport procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic it is recommended that, other than PPE, you return to normal resuscitative and transport procedures at this time
* **At this time, hospitals in our region are still requiring mask use, and EMS personnel are expected to be masked while in hospitals**