EMS Guideline for Care of Patients with Suspected COVID-19

Clinical concern for COVID-19 infection & Symptoms requiring EMS Treatment and Transport

Don PPE**
Place surgical mask on patient (may use NC under mask)

Stabilizing Measures
1. Administer oxygen (NC preferred) and titrate to $\text{SaO}_2$ of $\geq 88\%$
2. Obtain IV/IO access as indicated
3. Administer IVF only to treat shock ($\text{SBO} < 90$)
4. Modify standard guidelines to minimize aerosolization of the virus.*

1. Transport to the closest appropriate receiving facility
2. Provide receiving facility notification:
   - “Possible COVID-19”
   - Primary Symptoms
   - If any aerosolizing measures were used (Avoid use, if possible. See asterisk below*)

**Basic Airway management:**
- Perform all basic and advanced airway procedure in enhanced PPE **
- Avoid high flow oxygen: maintain an $\text{O}_2$ sat $\geq 88\%$ using $< 6$ LPM $\text{O}_2$.
- Place surgical mask over nasal cannula.

**Medications:**
- No nebulizer use for patients with wheezing and likely COVID-19.
- Consider using patient’s own MDI, 1-2 puffs every 5 minutes.
- Administer 0.3 mg of IM epinephrine, 1:1000, no more than once every 20 minutes, if needed for respiratory distress, use caution in patients over the age of 50 or with known cardiac disease.

**Avoid Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV): CPAP/BIPAP**

**Advanced Airway Management:**
- Early RSI is not recommended in the prehospital setting.
- For cardiac arrest, avoid endotracheal intubation and high flow $\text{O}_2$ for passive oxygenation.
  - Insertion of supraglottic airways is preferred.
  - Passive oxygenation in cardiac arrest may be performed by attaching a BVM to the SGA (with a viral filter, if available), allowing oxygen to flow through the BVM or passive oxygenation port at 10 Lpm without manual ventilation.
  - When ventilation is necessary, agencies should use available devices to limit exposure to aerosolized particles (examples: PEEP valves to close exhalation ports when present, viral filters, etc.)

**Enhanced PPE:** prioritize use of masks blocking aerosolized particles (N95, P100, etc.) when any medication or procedure is being provided that generates aerosolized particles (nebulizers, PPV, airway suction, etc.)