



**NORTHWEST
COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES
SYSTEM**

Northwest Community Hospital
EMS offices (Behavioral Health/901 Kirchoff Center)
800 W. Central
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Phone: 847-618-4480
Fax: 847-618-4489

System Memo: #406

Date: June 1, 2022
To: All System members
From: Matthew T. Jordan, MD, FACEP
EMS Medical Director
Connie J. Mattera, MS, RN, PM
EMS Administrative Director
RE: **SOP roll-out update | Current PPE requirements**

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE IMMEDIATELY

We continue operating under IDPH COVID-19 Emergency Guidelines and Contingency Capacity CDC has updated their **healthcare worker PPE guidelines**. At this time, gloves, fit tested N95 masks (respirators); plus eye protection (goggles) are required on all EMS workers for all patient contacts. HEPA filters are required on airway equipment for aerosolization procedures. Place a procedural mask on all patients if possible for source control. Gowns are only required for patients in contact isolation precautions (weeping vesicles, extensive watery diarrhea, or blood etc.).

SOP creation and approval clarifications	Process reminder
	<p>The process for approving new SOPs has not changed since the 1990s when IDPH regionalized EMS Systems into cohorts. It's always good to review processes as not everyone knows or remembers the steps.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Draft protocols are presented to key stakeholders and the six EMS Medical Directors and EMS System Coordinators in Region IX based on updates to laws, rules, guidelines and standards. The drafts are first discussed by the EMS System Coordinators for high level discussions and negotiated language changes. When variation of opinion and/or approach is desired, language is italicized so we arrive at a Region document with substantial agreement. This process is noted on the introduction page of the SOPs under point 3. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Italicized options</i> may not be used in all Systems. Refer to System-specific SOP documents. Those marked NR are non-region protocols that may or may not be adopted by each System or substituted with a System-specific document. The EMS System MDs and EMSCs must meet to approve final language that they all endorse. Due to a variety of conflicting schedules this year, the first possible meeting date for all physicians has become June 14th. We originally had this meeting scheduled over a month ago, but it had to be postponed to achieve full meeting attendance. Once approved, the Region IX SOP Coordinator (Connie) submits the final document along with a letter of endorsement by the Region IX EMS Committee chair (Dr. Jordan) to IDPH for their review and approval. Upon IDPH approval of the Region IX document, each EMS System will determine which of the italicized options they will adopt and then create their own System-specific edition. We will be creating the 2022 NCH-specific edition (just like the System has been operating off of the 2019 NWC edition). These System-specific protocols will be submitted to IDPH for each System's program plan and distributed to their members in a manner determined by each System. We will be conducting follow-up education on many of the protocols throughout the fall and next spring once our edition is finalized.
	FINAL PRINTING
	EMS licenses
New Directory	<p>When the final edition of the NWC EMSS SOPs is approved by IDPH, we will announce a go-live date and will post the document to the App and website and print full and reduced size copies. Print bids have been collected and order forms are coming shortly to each agency.</p> <p>Is your license due? Please check. If you need a PIN number to renew – contact Connie</p> <p>Several new changes released on June 1st. Please update email and distribution lists</p>

Questions or concerns? Please reach out to Matt Jordan: mjordan@nch.org or Connie Mattera cmattera@nch.org