**Teton County Fire Departments COVID-19 Guidelines**

**The following is the Teton County Fire Departments protocol for response to a call where a patient/victim has suspected COVID-19. These guidelines are to be followed on any non-fire call (mutual aid to EMS, vehicle wrecks, etc.)**

1. **Teton County Dispatch** will screen callers using COVID-19 criteria on patients that EMD classifies as “Sick Person”, “Breathing Problems” or “Infectious Disease”
   1. If patient meets criteria, Dispatch will advise EMS and Fire via radio that screening criteria has been met
   2. If EMS confirms criteria, advise Dispatch (preferably telephone) to notify BTMC or Benefis Hospital
2. **Absent specific notification from Dispatch,** Fire should use precautions when responding to any call because of the chance of being exposed to COVID-19
3. **EMS COVID-19 Screening Criteria**
   1. Upper respiratory issues/shortness of breath
   2. Temperature ≥ 100.4 degrees
   3. Dry cough
   4. Recent travel overseas or locations with high incidence of COVID-19 infection
   5. Contact with known infected person
   6. High risk individual (elderly, other underlying medical conditions)
   7. Has the patient/victim been confirmed or tested for COVID-19.
4. **Patient/Victim Contact Protocol if COVID-19 screening criteria is positive** 
   1. Immediately implement PPE; mask (N95 preferable, otherwise surgical under shield) or Hot Shield Mask, gloves, wildland googles. EMS will tell firefighters if they need to don Tyvek suits. Do not touch face, mouth, noses, eyes, etc. Only the firemen who are directly assisting EMS or firemen preforming extrication will be required to don the above noted PPE.
   2. One crew member into scene initially. Minimize responder contact with patient/victim to only those absolutely necessary. On a vehicle wreck limit the number of firemen to the number needed to complete the task being done. For extrication this would be 3 to 4 firemen.
   3. Enter scene with absolutely minimal equipment to perform task being done
   4. Initial assessment from at least 6 feet if possible. Maintain this between patient/victim and non-critical responders
   5. EMS will place surgical mask on patient immediately. Minimize contact until complete
   6. Use extra responders to get needed equipment, limiting the primary responders from touching unneeded equipment
   7. Do not place any of the equipment that was used at the scene inside the cab of the fire truck
   8. At completion of the call all responders shall remove and dispose of PPE and perform hand hygiene before reentering the fire trucks
5. **Post Run Protocol**
   1. Decontaminate googles, Hot Shield, equipment and trucks using regular procedures and solutions
   2. Dispose of all disposable PPE in “red” bio-hazard bags. We will likely experience PPE shortages. Additional guidance will be provided regarding reuse of some equipment that was used without direct patient contact
   3. Clean personal equipment such as eyeglasses, cell phones, radios, watches, pens, etc.
   4. Consider changing clothes after the run
   5. Wash hands thoroughly and frequently (the single best method of preventing infection)
   6. Document all actions taken in the run report