



## **Guidance (as of 1/30/2020) for Public Safety Personnel Responding to patients with fever and respiratory symptoms and travelers from Wuhan, China**

***Please note that this guidance is based on the latest information available (as of 1/30/2020). Public Safety Personnel should also consult the latest guidance from the CDC on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>.***

### **911 Centers (PSAPs)**

- If a caller complains of a fever, or they report having a fever and complain of symptoms compatible with a lower respiratory infection (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)
  - Ask if they have traveled to Wuhan, China within the last 14 days **OR** if they have had close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-novel Coronavirus (n-CoV).
    - If they have, dispatch the call and notify the responding crews and appropriate supervisor(s) of the patient's positive travel history.

### **Field Personnel (EMS, Fire and Law Enforcement)**

#### **Patient Assessment:**

If the patient looks as if they have a fever or they report having a fever and complain of symptoms compatible with a lower respiratory infection (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)

- Ask from a distance if they have traveled to Wuhan, China within the last 14 days **OR** if they have had close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-novel Coronavirus (n-CoV);
- Limit the number of personnel closely interacting with the patient and don appropriate PPE for airborne precautions, which should include N-95 Mask, goggles (that fit correctly), gloves, gown or coverall;
- Have the patient wear a surgical mask (if tolerated); and
- After both personnel and patient are protected (PPE), continue with the patient assessment, including taking the patient's temperature.

**POSITIVE TRAVEL HISTORY: If the patient has traveled to Wuhan, China within the last 14 days OR has had close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019 n-CoV**

- Notify your chain of command and or appropriate supervisor(s);
- Supervisors/Officers should then notify:
  - DPH Epidemiology (1-866-PUB-HLTH), and
  - Regional EMS Director, who will in turn notify IDTN Coordinator;
- Contact Medical Control and transport the patient to the nearest healthcare facility\* that has a negative pressure room in the ED
- Before leaving the scene, notify the facility\* that you have a patient who has traveled from Wuhan, China or that they have had close contact with someone who is under investigation for 2019 n-CoV and has a fever and symptoms of a lower respiratory infection: and
- To reduce possible exposure to healthcare workers or people in the ED make sure the patient continues wearing a surgical mask.

**NEGATIVE TRAVEL HISTORY: If the patient does not have a positive travel history to Wuhan, China within the last 14 days AND has not been in close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019 n-CoV, Transport as normal, per protocol\*.**

***\*If the patient is being transported to an Atlanta area hospital, EMS crews must call the Atlanta Metro Regional Communication Center (RCC) at 404-616-6440 for all transports and should inform the RCC if the patient has a positive travel history.***

### Decontamination and Disinfection:

- Maintain vigilance when removing and disposing of PPE. Use caution not to cross-contaminate when doffing PPE, and
- Decon personnel and disinfect ambulance/equipment as per service and manufacturer protocols/guidelines for a possible airborne pathogen.

### Electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) Documentation of Travel Related Questions for all Patient Contacts

- As a reminder, all EMS personnel are **required** to document the recent travel question (itExam.070 – “Has the patient traveled outside their community within the last 30 days?”) on ALL patient contacts in their ePCR.
  - “Community” is defined by the medical director and need not be limited to just travel outside of the United States.
  - Choices for the travel question include: “No,” “Yes,” “Unknown,” “Unresponsive,” “Refused.”
- If the answer to the travel question is “Yes,” then the medic is required to answer the following additional questions:
  - itExam.072 - Beginning Travel Date
  - itExam.071 - Ending Travel Date
  - itExam.074 - Travel Locations (Document all places and locations the patient has traveled in the last 30 days)

### Regional EMS Director Contact Information

| Region | Counties  | Regional EMS Director   |
|--------|---|---|
| 1      | Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker and Whitfield  | David T. Foster<br>404-989-4231<br>david.foster@dph.ga.gov    |
| 2      | Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White   | Lanier Swafford<br>404-859-9489<br>lanier.swafford@dph.ga.gov |
| 3      | Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale   | EJ Dailey<br>404-597-9775<br>ej.dailey@dph.ga.gov             |
| 4      | Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Fayette, Heard, Henry, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup and Upson   | Vincent Harris<br>404-323-4798<br>vincent.harris@dph.ga.gov   |
| 5      | Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Dodge, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Monroe, Montgomery, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Telfair, Treutlen, Twiggs, Washington, Wheeler, Wilcox and Wilkinson               | Kelly Joiner<br>470-599-9279<br>kelly.joiner@dph.ga.gov       |
| 6      | Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren and Wilkes   | Gary Pinard<br>470-898-6254<br>gary.pinard@dph.ga.gov         |
| 7      | Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Talbot, Taylor and Webster  | Russ McGee<br>404-319-4581<br>russ.mcgee@dph.ga.gov           |
| 8      | Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Sumter, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner and Worth | Robert Vick<br>404-989-5173<br>robert.vick@dph.ga.gov         |
| 9      | Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Coffee, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Pierce, Tattnell, Toombs, Ware and Wayne              | Robert Shad<br>706-993-6177<br>robert.shad@dph.ga.gov         |
| 10     | Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton   | Chris Threlkeld<br>706-816-0837<br>chris.threlkeld@dph.ga.gov |

