





ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 7, 2020

To: Public Safety Answer Point (PSAP) Centers
San Mateo County Public Safety Communications
San Mateo County EMS System 911 Provider Agencies
San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services

FROM: Dr. Greg Gilbert, EMS Medical Director 
Travis Kusman, EMS Director 

SUBJECT: 2019-Novel Coronavirus Emergency Medical Dispatch Screening (20-CLN-01)

The San Mateo County EMS Agency (EMS Agency) has directed that San Mateo County Public Safety Communications (PSC) begin screening certain people who access the emergency medical services system for 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Screening will begin Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 0800 and continue until further notice by the EMS Agency.

Public Safety Communications' role is to identify potential 2019-nCoV patients and notify 911 system first responders and ambulance personnel prior to their arrival on scene whenever possible. PSC's secondary role is to notify the local law enforcement PSAP when the incident is located in a law jurisdiction not contracted with PSC. Screening tools have been developed to aid in the Emergency Medical Dispatch caller interrogation process.

Procedure Summary:

1. 2019-nCoV screening questions will be asked of all callers by PSC whenever Emergency Medical Dispatch Cards 6 (Breathing Problems) or 26 (Sick Person) are accessed.
2. Upon selection of a determinant, the Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) will use the Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) tool to ascertain whether the patient has been in China or has had close contact with a person known to have 2019-nCoV in the past 21 days.



3. A patient is positively screened for *potential* 2019-nCoV if either of the screening criteria as outlined in #2 immediately above yields an affirmative response.
4. For each positive screening, PSC will advise responding crews “EMS screened positive” and will also communicate “EMS screened positive at (address)” to the local law enforcement PSAP when the incident is located in a law jurisdiction not contracted with PSC.
5. The intent of broadcasting the screening advisement to all field personnel assigned to respond to the corresponding incident is to prompt them to don appropriate medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to enhance their safety.

Questions regarding this Administrative Memorandum should be directed to EMS@smcgov.org.