

## PROTOCOL FOR CONTACT WITH SUBJECTS OF AN OMR CALLOUT

Version 4-14-20

- **Ensure that Dispatch has asked screening questions for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) – COVID19.**
  - If not, IC will ask screening questions and report results.
- **Teams will not leave staging without correct protective gear available.**
  - Verify by buddy check.
  - Report completed buddy check to IC.
  - Proper PPE for rescuers.
    - Mask (surgical or N95).
    - Eye protection.
    - EMS gloves.
      - Can be worn under winter gloves. If patient contact is made while wearing winter gloves, they should be deconned at the end of the call.
    - This PPE is not required to be worn until subject is contacted.
  - Proper isolation gear for patient:
    - Surgical mask.
    - Field-expedient foul weather gear: to be placed over subject's clothing if needed.
      - Two blankets for poncho-style insulation.
      - Heavy garbage bag for poncho-style wind/precip protection.
      - Inexpensive warm gloves.
      - Inexpensive warm hat.
- **Personnel at staging will maintain social distancing of 6' whenever possible.**
  - Briefing may be altered to avoid clustering around truck windows or IC trailer.
    - Only IC and SAR Staff are allowed in the IC trailer except by specific invitation.
  - Take advantage of SARtopo along with radio or phone briefings.
  - Avoid sharing pens, clipboards, etc. at sign in.
- **OMR Personnel in higher risk groups will avoid contact with SAR subjects whenever possible.**
  - Personnel age 60 or over.
  - Personnel with underlying chronic medical conditions, for example:
    - Heart history.

- Respiratory history.
- Diabetes.
- Personnel who are immunocompromised.
- Include appropriate personnel on each team fill needed patient care roles.
- **When subject is contacted:**
  - Only one OMR member will approach the subject.
    - All other team members will wait 15'-20' away.
  - OMR member (initial rescuer) will don mask, gloves, and eye protection before initiating contact or interview.
  - Interview subject from at least 6' away if possible.
    - Require subject to don a mask.
      - Initial rescuer will immediately provide subject with a surgical mask and insist that they wear it for everyone's protection.
      - If subject refuses to don a mask, explain that use of proper protective equipment is a requirement for further assistance from OMR.
      - If subject still refuses to don the mask, verify that subject is oriented to person, place, and time.
        - This establishes that the refusal to cooperate is a knowing refusal.
      - Explain that OMR is now unable to safely provide assistance and leave the area.
      - Notify IC immediately.
  - Initial rescuer will evaluate the need for additional rescuers to make contact.
    - If additional rescuers are needed:
      - Don mask, eye pro, and gloves before approaching within 6'.
- **Evacuation of Subject:**
  - Avoid loaning clothing and gear if possible.
    - Any gear that is loaned must be deconned upon return to staging.
    - Use field expedient foul weather gear such as a poncho made from blankets and garbage bags.
    - If loaning headlamps, ski poles, snowshoes, etc:
      - Ensure proper decon after call (see below).
  - **For walk-out of any subject:**
    - Maintain social distancing of at least 6'.

- 10'-15' is better.
  - Subject MUST continue to wear a mask.
  - Rescuers will continue to wear mask, eye pro, and gloves.
  - Use of PPE will impact travel pace so adjust accordingly.
- **For carry-out of any patient:**
  - Patient MUST wear a mask.
  - Package patient as needed for weather and injuries.
    - Look for opportunities to include barriers such as tarps to minimize contact between rescuers and patient.
  - Rescuers MUST wear mask, eye pro, and gloves.
- **For vehicle transport of any subject:**
  - Subject MUST wear a mask and gloves.
  - OMR personnel MUST wear mask, gloves, and eye pro.
  - Use agency vehicles if possible instead of POVs.
  - Select a driver who is not in a higher risk category if possible.
- **Upon return to staging:**
  - Maintain social distancing of at least 6'.
  - OMR personnel who have had subject contact will stay away from other personnel as much as possible until the steps below have been completed.
  - If EMS crew needs help transferring or loading a patient:
    - Assistance will only be provided by those personnel who have already had patient contact.
    - EMS will most likely ask why we are taking certain PPE precautions.
      - Have OMR Staff or IC brief them \*PRIOR\* to EMS making contact with patient.
      - EMS can then determine what level of PPE they will need based on their own agency's protocols.

- Personnel who have approached within 6' of the subject will:
  - Doff mask, gloves, and eye pro.
  - Mask and gloves will be bagged for disposal.
  - Eye pro will be deconned.
  - Outer layer clothing will be doffed and bagged.
    - This clothing can be safely laundered at home.
  - Hands will be washed before entering any vehicle.
    - Soap and water preferred.
    - Hand sanitizer is second choice.
- Debriefing will only occur to the extent needed for proper documentation and safety.
  - Maintain social distancing of at least 6'.
- Sign-out will be done in a way that minimizes sharing of pens, clipboards, etc.
- **OMR personnel may only deviate from this protocol:**
  - When such deviation is necessary to save life, limb, or eyesight and;
  - There is no reasonable alternative to such deviation, and;
  - Personnel can clearly articulate why the deviation is necessary.
  - Deviation from this protocol requires authorization from the IC or his/her designee.
  - If there is no way to communicate with the IC, the team leader is authorized to deviate as needed subject to the restrictions noted in this section but must inform the IC as soon as communication is reestablished.