



County of San Diego

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EMS PATIENT DESTINATION CONSIDERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

EMS Community,

Best practices for management of the COVID-19 (previously called 2019 nCoV) outbreak are dynamic due to the rapidly evolving situation and changing scientific knowledge. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance for [EMS providers](#) and [healthcare personnel](#) are continuously updated. All healthcare personnel should review these recommendations regularly.

This memo clarifies expectations for destination decisions for patients within the County of San Diego (CoSD) transported via the EMS system who fall into the following three categories:

- Symptomatic patients needing transport to a hospital for medical evaluation to determine whether they are a CDC Patient Under Investigation (PUI)
- CDC-identified PUIs on home isolation
- Asymptomatic returning travelers directed by CDC to home quarantine (note: if they develop symptoms, they change to the first listed category)

Each of these categories may be transported for a condition related to COVID-19, or an unrelated emergency (e.g., STEMI, major trauma). All three categories, whether transported for unrelated emergency medical conditions or a condition related to COVID-19, shall be managed *as if they are infectious*. Specifically:

- EMS providers must wear appropriate PPE
- Advanced notification must be provided to the receiving hospital

All CoSD hospitals are capable of managing infectious patients and do so routinely (e.g., tuberculosis or measles patients). Destination decisions remain the same as for any other patient accessing the 911 system (with the caveat that appropriate PPE must be strictly maintained and receiving hospitals must be notified prior to arrival).

Respectfully,

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