

# Federal Healthcare Resilience Task Force

## EMS/Prehospital Team

### 911 and EMS Algorithms

#### **Product (EMS07) Purpose**

Intended to provide procedural guidance to Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs) and EMS agencies on the appropriate EMS practitioner safety procedures and COVID-19 community mitigation procedures that are required to protect the public safety personnel, the patient's family members, hospital staff, and future EMS patients treated in the potentially contaminated response vehicle.

#### **Developed By**

The Federal Healthcare Resilience Task Force (HRTF) is leading the development of a comprehensive strategy for the U.S. healthcare system to facilitate resiliency and responsiveness to the threats posed by COVID-19. The Task Force's EMS/Pre-Hospital Team is comprised of public and private-sector Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and 911 experts from a wide variety of agencies and focuses on responding to the needs of the pre-hospital community. This Team is composed of subject matter experts from NHTSA OEMS, CDC, FEMA, USFA, US Army, USCG, and non-federal partners representing stakeholder groups and areas of expertise. Through collaboration with experts in related fields, the team develops practical resources for field providers, supervisors, administrators, medical directors and associations to better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Intended Audience**

State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments (SLTTs) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and 911 communication personnel

#### **Expected Distribution Mechanism**

EMS.gov, 911.gov, Stakeholder Calls, EMS stakeholder organization's membership distribution Email mechanisms, USFA website, Social Media posts

#### **Primary Point of Contact**

NHTSA Office of EMS, [nhtsa.ems@dot.gov](mailto:nhtsa.ems@dot.gov), 202-366-5440

#### **Date Published**

April 17, 2020

\* This is a non-federal website. Linking to a non-federal website does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. government, or any of its employees, of the information and/or products presented on that site.

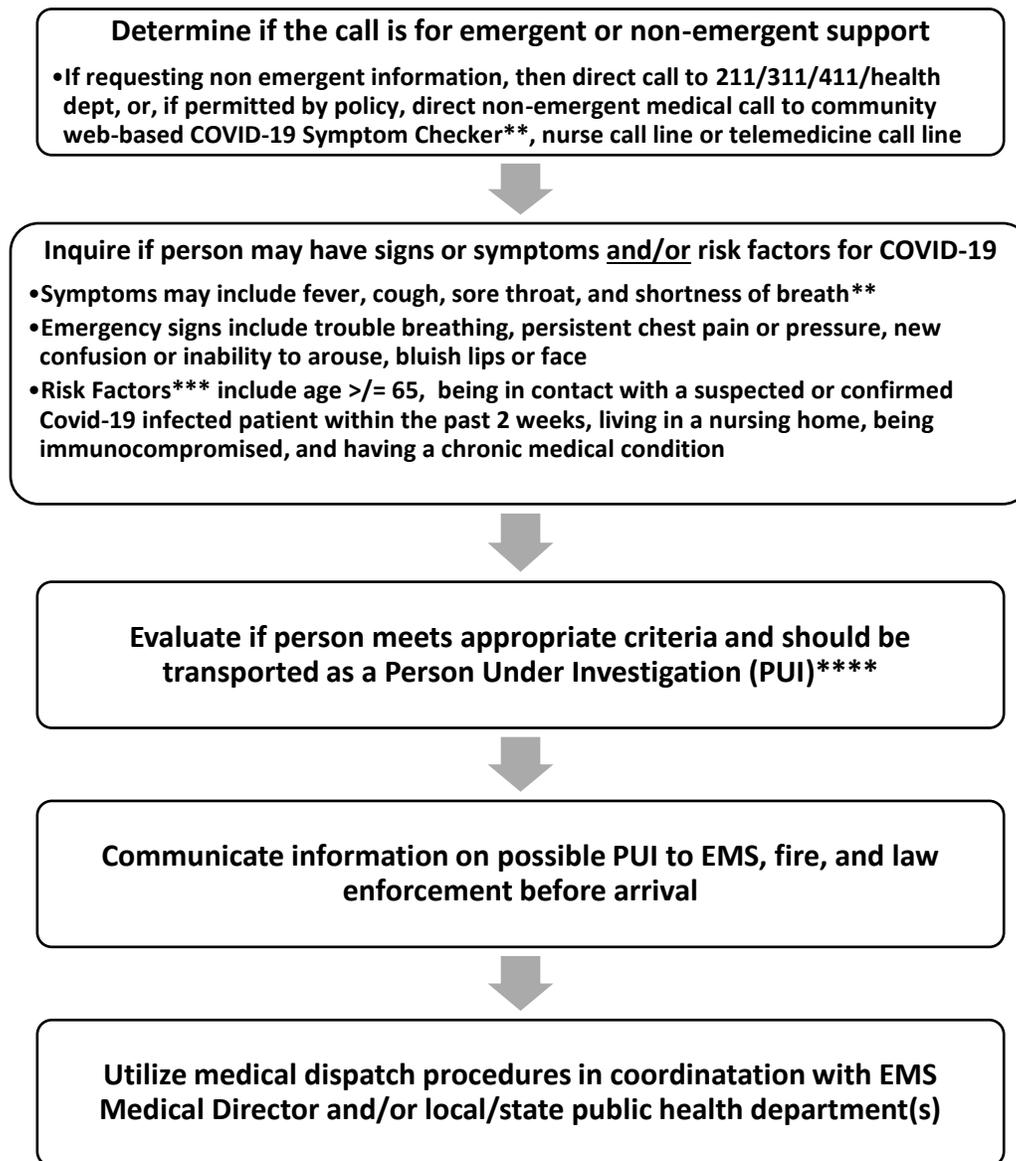
This guidance applies to all EMS delivery models including but not limited to; free standing, municipal third-service; fire-based, hospital-based, private, independent, volunteer, and related emergency medical service providers.

# 911 and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Algorithms

This document is based on published [CDC guidance](#)\* with input from the EMS community

## 911 Call Taking & Dispatching

these are steps to be considered as part of the 911 center's screening process



\*[Interim EMS Guidance](#) // \*\*[CDC Symptom Checker](#) // \*\*\* [CDC Guidance on Underlying Conditions](#) // \*\*\*\* [CDC PUI definition](#) // \*\*\*\*\* [CDC guidance on aerosol generating procedures](#) // [CDC clinical guidance management patients](#) //

Document Developed by the Healthcare Resilience Task Force  
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Prehospital Team

# 911 and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Algorithms

This document is based on published [CDC guidance](#)\* with input from the EMS community

## FIRST RESPONSE (EMS, FIRE) ARRIVAL, TRANSPORT, AND TRANSFER

A single EMS clinician should don appropriate PPE for patient with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 and assess patient separate from all responding personnel not wearing PPE



If the patient meets PUI criteria all clinicians should wear appropriate PPE  
If the patient does not meet PUI criteria, at a minimum wear universal precautions and a respirator/mask



Follow appropriate PPE precautions for aerosol-generating procedures\*\*\*\*\*



Notify receiving healthcare facility that patient has signs or symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 and underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, etc.



Keep patient separated from other people as much as possible; consider placing facemask on patient if coughing or respiratory symptoms



Do not allow family members or other contacts of adult patients to ride in ambulance  
\*If patient is a minor, allow one family member or guardian to ride in ambulance with patient\*



Isolate ambulance driver from patient compartment and keep pass-through doors and windows tightly shut



Follow healthcare facility procedures for transfer of patient to receiving healthcare facility



Follow appropriate protocols for cleaning and disinfection of vehicle and equipment



**Doff** PPE following appropriate protocols after decontamination of ambulance



Complete documentation



Notify chain of command if known, unprotected exposure occurred and follow exposure/risk management policies

\*[Interim EMS Guidance](#) // \*\*[CDC Symptom Checker](#) // \*\*\* [CDC Guidance on Underlying Conditions](#) // \*\*\*\* [CDC PUI definition](#) // \*\*\*\*\* [CDC guidance on aerosol generating procedures](#) // [CDC clinical guidance management patients](#) //