

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 09-05

Rescinded 7/22/15

May 1, 2009

TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Interim Fire Chief Richard Bowers
SUBJECT: Influenza Safety Stand Down



The MCFRS, in collaboration with the Office of the County Executive and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, recognizes that influenza can be a serious condition. To provide the most timely and accurate information for the MCFRS, I am ordering an immediate Safety Stand Down..

This Safety Stand Down will focus on precautions needed to ensure your health and safety, reinforce daily hygiene practices, and establish a set of boundaries to guarantee MCFRS daily functions.

Prevention (How can I prepare?) Practice common sense hygiene techniques:

- Do not report to work with flu-like symptoms, i.e. fever, cough, congestion.
- Seek medical attention if you have flu symptoms.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Cover your nose and mouth if you cough.
- Ensure you are well-rested.
- Frequently decontaminate *common contact work areas* with antiviral cleaning wipes or contact surface cleaners.
- Within 48 hours, each station will receive an allotment of antiviral wipes and spray solution to be used on common contact surface areas.
- Follow the Center for Disease Control recommendations at these links:
http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines_infectioncontrol.htm.
http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/cleaning_ems.html

Protection (What I can do to be safe?) As needed, follow normal MCFRS body substance isolation (BSI) procedures, which may include:

- Wearing gloves;
- Wearing safety glasses;
- Wearing respiratory masks (provider-issued N95), and the patient using a common filter mask;
- Follow normal MCFRS decontamination procedures when required.
- Be extra vigilant and, with antiviral wipes, focus on common contact surfaces (door handles, counters, EMS stretchers, steering wheels, phones, radios, etc.).

Response (What changes will occur?) Currently, there is no need to modify normal operations including, triage, treatment, transportation, and decontamination. However, you should:

- Anticipate call types that may place you in a position of potential exposure, i.e. sick person, trouble breathing etc.
- Use BSI resources as necessary to protect yourself and the patient.
- MCFRS Planning Section will provide daily updates via the chain of command regarding the current status, needs, and required actions.

Recovery

- Refer to CDC weblinks for real time information.

