

# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

**NUMBER: 20-03**

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**TO: All Personnel**

**FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein**



**SUBJECT: Infection Control and Hazard Exposure Reduction Manuals**

MCFRS personnel are in contact with or exposed to numerous chemical, biological, particulate and other hazards on a regular basis. For that reason, it is important to engage in infection control, hazard avoidance, personal protection, and decontamination.

While some threats are known and persistent, others emerge and wane. This reality makes it necessary to develop a flexible series of procedures that address known hazards, are consistent with our operational doctrine, and can scale and/or adapt to emerging situations.

This Fire Chief's General Order requires the MCFRS Human Resources Division to establish and maintain Department level guidelines for Infection and Exposure Control. All Sections will develop individual site-specific plans under the umbrella of the main guidelines.

These guidelines may exist as either documents or checklists. Each document and/or checklist is an Appendix to this FCGO and carries the weight of a FCGO.

These guidelines must be reviewed and updated whenever new threats or opportunities emerge, but no less frequently than every two years, except where Federal, State, or Local regulations require more frequent updating. This Fire Chief's General Order also elevates the current Infection Control Plan, required by OSHA Regulations, to the level of departmental policy and brings it under the umbrella of this wider scope of Infection and Exposure Control.

Whenever possible these documents and checklists should include the participation of applicable joint management labor groups, however, the Fire Chief may initiate the creation of new manuals or call for the review or modification of existing manuals at his/her discretion when an immediate threat or opportunity related to health and/or safety of personnel exists.

Questions can be directed to the Division Chief of Human Resources.