To: All EMS Clinicians

From: Timothy Chizmar, MD, FACEP
State EMS Medical Director

Date: February 1, 2020

RE: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Pneumonia – UPDATE

As an update to previous guidance dated January 22, 2020 regarding novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), the area of travel risk has been expanded to include all of mainland China.

Based on recommendations from the CDC and Maryland Department of Health, we recommend the following:

1. Ask patients with fever or respiratory symptoms about travel to mainland China within the past 14 days.
2. Identify patients under investigation (PUIs) using either of the following criteria:
   a. Fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath) and history of travel to China within the last 14 days, OR
   b. Fever or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath) and close contact with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient within the last 14 days

If you identify a PUI, please take the following steps:
1. EMS Clinicians should use gown, gloves, eye protection, and airborne respiratory protection (fit-tested N-95 level or higher respirator)
2. Place a surgical (simple) mask on the patient
3. Contact the receiving hospital via EMRC prior to initiating transport, utilizing the term “PUT” during the consultation
4. Transport directly to a Special Pathogen Assessment Hospital unless transport time is 45 minutes or more than time to a Frontline Hospital ED (closest hospital-based ED)
   a. Special Pathogen Assessment Hospitals: Anne Arundel Medical Center, Frederick Health Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital, Medstar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, Peninsula Regional Medical Center
   b. Special Pathogen Treatment Hospital (and Assessment Hospital for patients within 45 minutes): The Johns Hopkins Hospital
5. Decontaminate ambulance according to attached recommendations

Thank you for your prompt attention to this emerging infectious disease. Importantly, the screening criteria for this novel coronavirus may change with time. The MIEMSS Infectious Disease Program will provide updates as additional information becomes available.