

Ministry of Health

Emergency Health Regulatory and
Accountability Branch

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Ministère de la Santé

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February 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Paramedic Chiefs, Ornge and First Nations

FROM: Steven Haddad
Director (I)
Emergency Health Regulatory and Accountability Branch

RE: **Training Bulletin, Issue Number 120 - Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) v1.2**

I am pleased to present an update to the Training Bulletin, Issue Number 120 - Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Training Bulletin). Since the publication of the initial Training Bulletin in January 2020, the Emergency Health Regulatory and Accountability Branch (EHRAB) has worked to incorporate feedback received by stakeholders into the Training Bulletin.

I wanted to take this opportunity to address a common question received by EHRAB regarding the appropriate time to don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) outlined in the Training Bulletin:

Scenario 1 – Patient screened POSITIVE by the provincial Central Ambulance Communication Centres (CACC) / Ambulance Communication Services (ACS):

- Both paramedics should don the PPE outlined in the Training Bulletin prior to patient contact.

Scenario 2 – Patient screened NEGATIVE by the provincial CACC / ACS:

- Paramedics should screen all patients using the “COVID-19 Screening Tool” found in the Training Bulletin. The assessment should be conducted by one paramedic, immediately upon arrival and prior to a second paramedic entering the scene.

- This assessment should be done at a minimum distance of two (2) metres, but does not require the donning of PPE.
- If the patient screens POSITIVE based on the paramedic assessment, both paramedics should don the PPE outlined in the Training Bulletin immediately.
- If the patient screens NEGATIVE, but is presenting with a fever and/or new onset of cough or difficulty breathing, paramedics should don the appropriate PPE outlined in Part B “Communicable Disease Management” of the [Patient Care and Transportation Standards v2.2](#).

EHRAB is continuing to work with the Health System Emergency Management Branch (HSEMB) and the Emergency Health Program Management and Delivery Branch (EHPMDB) of the Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario, Paramedic Services and the Ontario Base Hospital Group Medical Advisory Committee (OBHG MAC) to monitor the evolving situation and provide additional guidance to paramedics if necessary.

As a reminder, the English and French versions of this Training Bulletin can be found on the [EHS – Paramedic Practice Documents](#) webpage. Additional information and guidance documents can be found on the [Ministry of Health - COVID-19](#) webpage.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Georgakopoulos, Senior Manager, Regulatory and Standards Oversight at 416-327-9462 or chris.georgakopoulos@ontario.ca.

Sincerely;

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Steven Haddad

Enclosure

c: Alison Blair, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Health Service Division
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