

Safety Messages

- First responders who are providing emergency medical response and supporting Ambulance Victoria activities are to prioritise their own safety.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is asking for health professionals across the sector to watch out for signs and symptoms of COVID-2019 infection in patients who may have travelled internationally or who have had close contact with an infected person.
- First responders providing emergency medical response or supporting Ambulance Victoria should report any signs and symptoms of COVID-2019 to Ambulance Victoria.
- For further information or to seek advice in relation to a patient treatment, contact LSV Comms (13 SURF)

Checklist for Patrolling Members and providers of First Aid

- **Members should familiarise** themselves with the [communicable disease policy](#).
- **Apply social distancing (safe distance i.e. 2m) and consider appropriate PPE (Single-use face mask (at a minimum P1 but, where available, use P2 respirator N95 mask), protective eyewear and gloves). If treating a patient with respiratory issues (a cough or breathing difficulties), wear a P2 face mask in addition to the standard PPE for all patient treatment.**
- **Take a patient history including medical and travel** to establish travel and any flu like symptoms or respiratory symptoms.
- **Be alert** for patients who meet the case definition.
- **If you suspect that the patient has coronavirus:**
 - **Ensure** the patient wears a P2 surgical mask, isolate them from others and if available place them in a single room.
 - **Withdraw** from activities immediately and notify Patrol Captain
 - **Unless immediately required for clinical care, crews must also:**
 - **Minimise** all non-essential patient contact
 - **Minimise** the use of medical equipment where possible
 - **Avoid** aerosol generating procedures (e.g. nebulised therapy, high flow nasal oxygen therapy)
 - **Only perform** other high-risk activities that disrupt the airway (e.g. suction and intubation) with extreme caution
 - **If absolutely necessary** required procedures should be completed outside
 - **Notify** LSVComms (13 SURF) immediately of suspected case and follow instructions for patient and patrol members. LSV Comms will make contact with Ambulance Victoria
 - **Complete hand hygiene and wash exposed skin** with alcohol-based sanitiser as a preference.
 - **Undertake the decontamination / cleaning activities** as defined in the Decontamination Guide

For further information or to seek advice in relation to a patient treatment, or cleaning/decontamination please contact LSV Comms (13 SURF).

Please Note – highlighted sections have been revised since the last version.

Criteria for determining patients with suspected coronavirus

Clinical criteria:

Fever (**≥38 degrees**) OR acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever

AND one of Epidemiological criteria:

Travel overseas in the 14 days prior to the onset of illness

OR

Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the 14 days before the onset of illness.

OR

Healthcare workers and residential aged care workers meeting clinical criteria

OR

Aged and residential care residents meeting clinical criteria

OR

Patients who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people meeting clinical criteria

(Casual contact has been removed from the criteria for determining suspected COVID-19 patients)

Close contact definition: Greater than 15 minutes face-to-face or the sharing of a closed space for more than two hours with a confirmed case without recommended personal protective equipment (PPE). Contact needs to have occurred during the period of 24 hours prior to onset of symptoms in the confirmed case until the confirmed case is no longer considered infectious.

Patient Transfer

Members should minimise all non-essential patient contact until arrival of the Ambulance Victoria.

Follow-up Support

LSV will designate an Incident Manager who will liaise with the Patrol Captain and members to ensure the necessary follow up support and instructions are provided.

Resource

As the situation in regards of cases of Coronavirus is evolving rapidly please use the available resources to keep informed of the latest updates. Briefings will be provided as required.

Latest information will be available on the LSV website: www.lsv.com.au/healthalerts

[LSV Communicable Diseases Policy](#)

Other key resources are listed below:

Department of Health and Human Services Website – Victoria: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

SmartTraveller Website: <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/coronavirus-covid-19>

Australian Government Department of Health: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Worksafe: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-alerts/exposure-coronavirus-workplaces>