



# Boone County Fire Chiefs Association

## PRESS RELEASE

March 18, 2020  
For immediate release

The partner Fire-EMS agencies of Boone County, Kentucky want to remind Boone County residents, and everyone throughout the region, that EMS stands ready to assist for emergency medical conditions. However, to do that effectively, we need for your help.

If you or the loved one you are calling for, are currently sick, have a fever, have traveled out of the area, or been in large gatherings within the last 14 days PLEASE advise your 9-1-1 call taker of these facts so responders can protect themselves and you from unnecessary exposures.

If you are calling an ambulance because you are having flu-like symptoms with no other problems or conditions and you have requested the ambulance to take you for evaluation of your symptoms, be aware that the hospitals and the health department are strongly advising people to call their primary care physician or the KY COVID-19 Hotline: (800) 722-5725 to assess how best to be cared for instead of overloading the hospitals with illness.

For patients solely with flu-like conditions medical treatment will involve isolation at home as no treatments are available for solely flu-like symptoms. If breathing becomes severely labored or another disabling condition appears, call 9-1-1 and it is critical that you advise the 9-1-1 operator of all symptoms, travel, and any potential exposures to a known COVID 19 patient.

The Kentucky Department of Public Health graphic illustrates and explains this process well:

**TEAM KENTUCKY** COVID-19 HEALTH TIPS

### When To Seek Care

To ensure the sickest people receive care, help minimize the spread of infection and maintain resources, please follow the guidelines below when considering whether to seek medical care.

<p><b>Stay home</b></p> <p>If you are worried-well, <b>please stay home</b> or <b>call the Kentucky State Hotline (1-800-722-5725)</b>.</p> <p>Going to a hospital or doctor's office adds to a higher concentration of people and further overwhelms medical staff.</p>	<p><b>Call for advice</b></p> <p>If you are <b>ill, but would not have sought care</b> if not for COVID-19, <b>do not seek in-person care</b> at an ER, hospital or doctor's office.</p> <p>Instead please <b>call your local healthcare provider</b> or <b>local health department</b>.</p>	<p><b>Seek care</b></p> <p>If you are <b>sick and feel you have an emergency</b>, please call your doctor or <b>seek medical care</b>.</p> <p><b>Hospitals and medical staff across the commonwealth stand ready to serve you.</b></p>
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Please visit [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov) for the latest updates on COVID-19 in Kentucky or call the Kentucky state hotline at **1-800-722-5725**

Help us help you! On behalf of the Boone County Fire Chiefs Association, stay healthy.