

# Hawthorn Area Volunteer Fire Department

## QRS Statement on COVID-19

To all department members,

As you know COVID-19 (coronavirus) is starting to build in our state. As of now, we have not had any confirmed cases in our area. However, there have been a multitude of tests that have been sent out from our local hospitals, which means that it is probably only a matter of time before there is a positive test in our area. With this in mind I would like to lay out our precautions for responding to calls when summoned. First, it is my understanding that the 9-1-1 center will be “screening” calls and will alert responders if a patient meets potential COVID-19 criteria. However, this is not a guarantee that we will not walk into an infected persons home so please be aware of the symptoms. For those of you who do not know the symptoms they include a fever, shortness of breath, and a cough. . Please wear gloves at all times when around a patient. Also in the trucks are kits that have gowns, masks, and goggles in. Should you respond to a call with a potentially infected patient please wear ALL of the items in the kit. Also I encourage everyone to read up on the DOH and the Bureau of EMS guidelines in regard to COVID-19.

Also in discussion with the chief, we are limiting the amount of responders on each QRS incident to 3 (with exception to AED/rescue calls). A driver and a max of 2 medical providers, the drivers should not exit the truck unless needed by the medical crew. This is because we only have 2 of the infection kits in the truck. Also to restrict the spread of the virus, ALL NON-MEDICAL providers will not be permitted on QRS calls (with the exception of AED/rescue calls.) Also please refrain from driving your personal vehicles to the scene. I know this is a lot of asking, but all of these changes will restrict the cross-contamination if you are infected. After all patient contacts, WASH YOUR HANDS. The responding unit will have SANI-CLOTHS, please take some and wipe the equipment used. Let it sit for 2 minutes prior to wiping it off or packing it away.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you in advance for following all these guidelines. If you have any questions, please contact me (814-221-4591) of Chief Boo. Stay safe everyone, and hopefully this is all over soon!

Josh Shick, NRP  
QRS Captain.