

CoVid19 Temporary Response Protocol and Exposure Prevention

433.1 DEFINITIONS

- A. CoVID-19: Commonly known as Coronavirus, a viral pathogen that is highly contagious and spread through airborne exposure as well as through bodily fluids.
- B. Universal Precautions: Assumption that all potential bodily fluids and patients are potentially infectious, and should be treated accordingly by use of proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and proper decontamination procedures.
- C. Exposure: When an eye, mouth, mucous membrane, or non-intact skin comes into contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials, or when these substances are injected or infused under the skin; when an individual is exposed to a person who has a disease, including CoVID-19 that can be passed through the air by talking, sneezing, or coughing (i.e., tuberculosis), or the individual is in an area that was occupied by such a person. Exposure only includes those instances that occur due to a member's position at the Town of Warwick Police Department.
- D. Quarantine- a strict isolation imposed to prevent the spread of disease.

433.2 POLICY

- A. In response to the recent increase in reported and confirmed CoVID-19 patients in Orange County and surrounding areas, this agency will temporarily modify its policies and response protocols for calls for service to limit exposure to potential CoVID-19 patients. This will be accomplished by minimizing responses to calls for service that do not involve immediate life threats except under certain circumstances, as well as providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to minimize the likelihood of exposure to members while operating at calls for service where a law enforcement presence is required or appropriate.

433.3 TEMPORARY MODIFICATION TO RESPONSE PROTOCOL

- A. Effective immediately, members shall no longer respond to any Basic Life Support (BLS) or general illness medical calls for service calls through Warwick Police Communications or Orange County 911's Emergency Medical Dispatch.
- B. For non-priority incidents where crimes or other information is reported, individuals should be encouraged to report their information over the telephone.
- C. In-progress incidents, or those that might require more in-depth investigation, should still necessitate a police response. If Officers need direction, Supervisors should utilize appropriate discretion in determining which incidents can be done remotely and which incidents require a direct response.
- D. Officers should not respond to medical calls unless there are priority symptoms that might require lifesaving interventions.

Town of Warwick Police Department

Policy Manual

CoVid19 Temporary Response Protocol and Exposure Prevention

- E. For medical calls that we do respond to, if local EMS is already on scene, officers should NOT enter the residence, and should instead clear the location.
- F. Officers can contact local EMS via the Warwick Police Communications or the 9-1-1 radio system to determine estimated time of arrivals to calls for service and make a determination if a police response will be necessary.
- G. In the event you do interact with a person showing signs or symptoms of CoVID-19, you shall blotter the incident and also complete an Exposure Form. You must also contact your Supervisor immediately. In the event you cannot reach your Supervisor, contact another Supervisor or the Chief of Police.
- H. Documentation of all of your actions shall be done after you have cleared the scene, removed all PPE and performed hand hygiene. IF CoVID-19 is suspected, the Orange County Department of Health must be called IMMEDIATELY. It will be open 24 hours a day, every day. Their number is 845-291-2330. In addition, if the officer suspects they have been exposed they will be directed to a local physician for evaluation and an appointment made for testing.
- I. Given the risks of CoVID-19, additional consideration should be given to issuing appearance tickets or traffic tickets in the field. All efforts shall be made to limit arrestees being brought to the station.

433.4 POLICE VEHICLES

- A. Effective immediately, you are required to wipe down the front seat interior of the police car that you are driving at the end of your shift. This includes the driver's AND passenger side. Remove all garbage, food, etc.
- B. Disinfectant wipes are located in the squad room Please leave them on the squad room at the end of your shift.
- C. During the pre-shift inspection of your vehicle, insure that it is clean.
- D. No unnecessary transports should be provided.
- E. All ride-alongs are suspended until further notice.
- F. Lockouts will only be done on occupied vehicles where the person inside is not able to unlock the door them self.
- G. Do not transport any person exhibiting or complaining of symptoms. In the event you transport anyone showing symptoms or signs of CoVID-19 leave all the rear doors open to allow for sufficient air changes after transport.
 - 1. After 15 minutes have elapsed, the vehicle shall be returned to the Police Station where it shall be taken out of service until it can be environmentally cleaned and disinfected.

433.5 POLICE STATION

- A. Any individuals coming to the Police Station, unless under arrest, shall be prohibited from entering the police station beyond the front lobby/interview room.

Town of Warwick Police Department

Policy Manual

CoVid19 Temporary Response Protocol and Exposure Prevention

- B. A poster will be placed on the front door of the Police Station detailing that "Persons at Risk" who will be barred until further notice.
- C. A hand sanitizing station has been installed in the lobby.

433.6 HYGIENE

- A. Any staff members who feel ill should not report to work.
- B. Supervisors should be monitoring their personnel appropriately, and sending individuals home if necessary.
- C. In order to minimize potential exposure to communicable diseases, personnel must consider that all persons are potential carriers of a communicable disease and that all body fluids shall be considered potentially infectious material. Proper use of PPE, and proper decontamination after contact, should be followed at all times to minimize the risk of exposure.
 - 1. STAY HOME WHEN SICK and keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
 - 2. Avoid handshakes use an elbow bump.
 - 3. Push buttons with a knuckle.
 - 4. Carry alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - 5. Stock up on prescriptions.
 - 6. Think through how you'd take care of sick family members.
 - 7. Stock up on essentials (but no panic buying).
 - 8. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - 9. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
 - 10. Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs.
 - 11. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
 - 12. Practice other good health habits. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.