



- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- **Emergency Medical Services**
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio State Highway Patrol



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To: Ohio EMS providers, EMS agencies, and EMS medical directors

From: Carol A. Cunningham, M.D., FAAEM, FAEMS
State Medical Director

Date: March 18, 2020

RE: COVID-19 and EMS Response to Nursing Homes and Skilled Nursing Facilities

The nursing homes, skill nursing facilities, and other similar facilities have instituted restricted visitation policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In addition, all persons, including EMS providers, entering these facilities are being screened based upon the facility's policies paired with the recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health. Facility policies can be highly variable as the protective actions they select to implement are impacted by their patient population's demographics, needs, risk factors, and co-morbidities as well as the services provided by the facility.

In an effort to avoid delays in the entry to these facilities, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS advises EMS agencies to contact the facilities within their jurisdiction, if possible, and obtain the facilities' entry screening requirements in advance of being dispatched to them. The screening actions to gain entry to these facilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Donning of specified PPE based upon the risk level of the facility's patient population
- Measurement of the EMS provider's temperature upon entry to the facility
- Presentation of a federal- or state-issued identification (e.g. driver's license, passport)
- Answering inquiries regarding
 - Known or suspected exposure to COVID-19
 - Cough or shortness of breath
 - Body temperatures of 100.4°F or higher
 - Recent travel history with travel destinations

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."