



COVID-19: Next Steps



As the State of Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic expires on July 1st, 2021, MIEMSS is providing guidance on recommended next steps for EMS operational programs.

Although the statewide mask mandate has been lifted, EMS clinicians continue to care for patients who may be unvaccinated, have a weakened immune system, or are experiencing symptoms concerning for COVID-19. EMS is part of the health care environment and these guidelines are based upon CDC and MDH recommendations for health care professionals.

- EMS clinicians should **continue** to wear surgical masks, eye protection, and gloves, at minimum, on all calls.
- If there is any concern for COVID-19 illness, clinicians should use gloves, eye protection, surgical gown, and a fit-tested N-95 or equivalent respirator.
- ALL** patients encountered by EMS should be instructed to wear a surgical mask, if clinical condition allows. EMS should provide an appropriate mask if the patient does not have one. Exceptions to this guideline include patients who have significant disabilities, or children under 2 years of age.
- Consider local hospital visitor policies when allowing family members to accompany patients who otherwise are capable of making their own medical decisions.
- For patients who are suspected to have COVID-19 illness or exposure, clinicians should reference the COVID-19 EMS guidance dated July 1, 2021.
- CDC recommends mask use when any unvaccinated individuals are present in a communal setting. A group of fully vaccinated personnel may gather in communal areas without masks or social distancing.