



State of Maryland
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

Wes Moore
Governor

Clay B. Stamp
Chairman, EMS Board

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director

To: EMS Clinicians

From: Timothy Chizmar, MD
State EMS Medical Director

Date: March 30, 2023

Re: **Update: Masks / Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

The COVID-19 Community Level, as determined by the CDC, is currently at a “Low” level for most of Maryland. In addition, the number of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to decline.

However, EMS clinicians should continue to wear PPE that is appropriate for a patient’s presentation. If a patient has respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, congestion), or if there is any concern for COVID infection, EMS clinicians should continue to wear a fit-tested N-95 mask, eye protection and gloves. Patients with these symptoms should also wear a surgical mask. Gowns should be utilized if there is anticipated contact with secretions or body fluids.

For all other patients, mask use is encouraged, but not required, unless the patient’s condition otherwise dictates (e.g. during placement of an airway, risk of exposure to body fluids). When evaluating the need for a mask, EMS clinicians should exercise good judgment based upon their infection prevention training.

Please note that various health care facilities may still require masks upon entry to their buildings. Please respect their requests for masks while in these facilities. Masks may be required in other settings by individual fire and EMS departments; please consult your supervisor or chief for information on local policies.

Please contact the Office of the Medical Director (410-706-0880; tchizmar@miemss.org) if you have any questions regarding this memo.