Date: March 25, 2020

To: All certified and licensed Emergency Medical Services and emergency medical personnel

From: OSDH – EMS Division

Re: Quarantine Guidance for EMS Providers exposed to Positive COVID- 19 patients

The Oklahoma State Department of Health understands that the current COVID-19 response is a dynamic and fluid situation that changes very quickly and requires flexibility in the guidance provided to EMS agencies and personnel.

Effective immediately and until guidance changes, EMS providers who are exposed to a suspected or positive COVID-19 patient while wearing personal protective equipment or not, unless the provider becomes symptomatic, will no longer need to be quarantined.

EMS providers exposed to a positive COVID-19 patients will be required to wear surgical masks while on duty and be closely monitored by the EMS agency and themselves for any potential symptoms. This includes the service or provider taking and recording their temperature twice a day, even when off duty. Temperature screenings should be communicated to the provider’s EMS Agency and medical director, using an approved screening tool. While off duty, personnel will need to maintain social distance practices from friends and family.

EMS workers will need to be screened before every shift. Personnel who become symptomatic should immediately be taken off duty, screened by a healthcare provider and tested for COVID-19 if available. If the test is positive or not conducted, personnel should follow CDC and Oklahoma State Department of Health quarantine guidelines.

Approval to return to work would be determined by the individual agency utilizing OSDH Acute Disease and CDC guidance.

EMS agencies should work to limit provider exposure to COVID-19 as much as possible, wearing appropriate PPE, conducting proper 911 screenings.

Please see the attached link for CDC guidance and a sample screening. OSDH personnel are available to serve as a resource for your decision making process and to address any questions you may have.

Enclosed:

CDC Guidance Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/hcp-return-work.html>

OSDH Acute Disease Quarantine Guidance:

Sample screening document