



Town of Georgia  
First Response Infectious  
Disease Outbreak Policy

Approved 13 April 2020

<b>Table of Contents</b>
--------------------------

1	Purpose .....	1
2	Guidelines .....	1
2.1	CDC Guidelines.....	1
2.2	911 Calls .....	1

## 1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 This policy is created to help minimize the risk and spread of a potentially infectious disease, should there be a potential case in the Town of Georgia. It is the sole purpose of Georgia First Response to provide care to any and all patients without putting themselves at risk of contracting a potentially infectious disease during an outbreak.

## 2 Guidelines

### 2.1 CDC Guidelines.

- 2.1.1 Georgia First Response members are to follow the current guidelines from the CDC and the VT Health Department prior to any contact with the patient. This means maintaining the recommend reasonable social distance when approaching and initially assessing the patient. Ask the patient to put on a surgical mask or oxygen mask if tolerated. At minimum the member will don a correct fitting N95 mask, gloves and eye protection as well as a gown or Tyvek suit. If isolation gowns are available, the GFR member is to don them as well. Members are to maintain proper PPE use until the patient is loaded for transport and the member is away from the area the potentially infected patient was.

### 2.2 911 Calls

- 2.2.1 Currently all 911 PSAP (Public Safety Answering Points) or 911 answering and dispatch centers are screening all EMS related calls for possible infectious disease and/or infected patients. These questions are specific to the current infectious disease outbreak at that time. Should the dispatch center receive a potential case of someone infected, they will dispatch the proper agencies and request that they call dispatch for further information. Information about the potential infected patient will not be relayed over the radio.
- 2.2.2 Should Central dispatch receive a 911 call and suspects that the patient may have the current infectious disease and the patient resides in the town of Georgia, central dispatch will dispatch Georgia First Response as normal and request that a member call dispatch for more information.
- 2.2.3 Upon arrival of the first Georgia First Response unit, they will enter the scene for all suspected infectious disease patients, wearing the following: A correct fitting N95 with a surgical mask placed over it, eye protection to include protective eye glasses and a face shield (if face shield available), gloves, and a gown or Tyvek suit. (See CDC guidelines on Donning Equipment)
- 2.2.4 The first member on scene will do a full assessment and evaluation and determine if additional resources waiting outside will be needed. They will then radio to those resources waiting and advise them what they need if anything. Assessment and evaluation will include the following questions as well as a thorough exam within the responders' scope of practice.
  - 2.2.4.1 Are you experiencing any Fever, Cough, or shortness of breath?
  - 2.2.4.2 Have you traveled outside the US within the last 14 days? Where to?
  - 2.2.4.3 Have you been in contact with anyone who has been recently diagnosed with (current infectious disease), or is being monitored for (current infectious disease).

- 2.2.5 Upon arrival of the transporting agency, a Georgia First Response member is to meet with the agency outside the infected area and debrief them on what the situation is. After the patient is transported and Georgia First Response members are clear of the area, the potentially infected patient was in, they are to properly doff (see CDC guidelines on Doffing PPE) the PPE worn and place all contaminated PPE in a red biohazard bag to be sent with the transporting agency for proper disposal.
- 2.2.6 If Georgia First response is dispatched to a scene where the chief complaint is difficulty breathing, cough or fever but was not asked to call dispatch prior to responding, then they are to ask the patient the following questions:
  - 2.2.6.1 Have you traveled outside the US within the last 14 days? Where to?
  - 2.2.6.2 Have you been in contact with anyone who has been recently diagnosed with (current infectious disease), or is being monitored for (current infectious disease).
- 2.2.7 If the patient answers yes to either of these questions then the Georgia First Response member is to call dispatch and notify them that they potentially have a patient infected with (current infectious disease) and to have them notify the transporting agency responding.
- 2.2.8 If Georgia First response is dispatched to a scene where the chief complaint is difficulty breathing, cough or fever and the patient answers yes to either of the above questions, GFR personnel shall notify the EMS Chief as well as the Town Health Officer and or Town Administrator of the time and location of the incident as soon as reasonably possible.