

OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 18/2020

File: D14035

Date: March 2020

Operational Response – COVID-19 Precautions

Key Message

If there is any person affected by COVID-19 at an incident, appropriate infection control precautions should be taken by responders.

What is happening?

With the risk of COVID-19 exposure increasing daily, it is important temporary response measures are implemented to ensure safety of responding crews.

Effective immediately, Communications System Officers (CSOs) will include an additional question when interrogating 000 calls where there is possible life involvement / community exposure.

CSOs will ask: “...is any person at the attendance location affected by COVID-19?”

If the answer is yes, a text message will be sent via RapidAlert to crews with this advice.

132 500 SES calls will be interrogated in the same way. If the answer is yes, a comment will be added to the RFA in WebEOC and crews will be notified.

What should I do if I have contact with someone who is in self-isolation?

If you have contact with someone who is in self-isolation:

- a P2/N95 mask should be given to the person in self-quarantine to wear while interacting with you;
- responders should also wear a P2/N95 mask while interacting with people in self-isolation;
- gloves should be worn when handling and receiving items from people in self-isolation;
- wash hands for at least 20 seconds, using soap and water or alcohol-based gel before and after any contact with someone in self-isolation; and
- maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres between yourself and the person in self-isolation.

Target Audience: All DFES Responders				
A	B	C	D	Vol
O.I.C. is to communicate content to all relevant personnel under their command, discuss implications, and sign appropriate box above. Once completed Circulars shall be filed on station and forwarded to Information Resources at the end of each financial year.				
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What if I am required to assist a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?

For persons who are suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, responders should use personal protective equipment (PPE) and implemented preventative infection control measures including:

- wearing a P2/N95 mask and eye protection;
- wearing disposable nitrile gloves;
- using a CPR mask or oxy-viva if administering CPR;
- treating body fluids as potentially infectious; and
- decontaminating PPE as per standard procedures. Refer to [SOP 3.3.5 – Exposure to Biological Hazards](#).

Any exposure or potential exposure should be reported in the Incident Reporting System (IRS) using the new COVID-19 field.

CRAIG WATERS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

Links SOP 3.3.5 – Exposure to Biological Hazards <https://shared.dfes.wa.gov.au/business-units/doctrine/IRISDoctrinesyncfolder/Doctrine/3%20Operations/3.03%20Operational%20Support/SOP-3.03.05---Exposure-to-Biological-Hazards.pdf>

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