



BUREAU OF OPERATIONS EMS OPERATIONS ORDER 2003-042

Issued Date:

April 11, 2003

CLEANING AND PERSONAL PROTECTION SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members must remember that Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) may be transmitted if contact is made with residual infectious particles remaining on environmental surfaces. Like other airborne diseases, SARS can remain a high risk to persons for a period of time after contact with the infected patient. It is imperative that proper precautions be taken both prior to and during patient contact, as well as during the decontamination of equipment.
- 1.2 The following guidelines are provided to minimize exposure of Fire Department personnel involved in the provision of pre-hospital care services.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This procedure applies to all certified FDNY EMS providers (EMT or Paramedic) and voluntary hospital ambulance personnel who provide pre-hospital emergency medical care in the New York City 911 System.

3. GUIDELINES

- 3.1 When responding to an assignment for patients with suspected SARS, resources shall observe the following precautionary measures:
 - 3.1.1 Minimize exposure to a patient to only those members providing treatment.
 - 3.1.2 Use universal precautions when caring for patients with suspected SARS.
 - 3.1.3 Don personal protective equipment such as disposable gowns, gloves, eye protection and an N-95 mask to minimize personal contact. Maintain this level of protection during the entire assignment.
 - 3.1.4 For patients experiencing respiratory distress, apply a non re-breather mask using the appropriate flow rate. An N-95 should be applied to patients not experiencing respiratory distress.
 - 3.1.5 Do NOT eat, drink or handle contact lenses during patient contact.
 - 3.1.6 Pass through window should be closed during transport of suspected SARS patients.
- 3.2 After the assignment, personnel shall dispose of and clean supplies and/or equipment as follows:
 - 3.2.1 Collect disposable equipment in biohazard bags for disposal as regulated medical waste.
 - 3.2.2 Thoroughly clean utilized patient care equipment in accordance with biohazard guidelines outlined in EMS OGP 125-04 *Infection Control Program*. Personnel cleaning this equipment shall maintain universal precautions.
 - 3.2.3 Thoroughly clean the patient compartment and all associated equipment in accordance with decontamination procedures outlined in EMS OGP 125-04 *Infection Control Program*. This vehicle maintenance shall be completed in an off-service (BBP) status. Personnel cleaning this equipment shall maintain universal precautions.
 - 3.2.4 Thoroughly wash hands after removal of gloves.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF EMS OPERATIONS