



Oregon

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Reference: CBC-20-66 Provider Alert

DATE: March 17, 2020

TO: Nursing Facility & Community Based Care Providers

FROM: Safety, Oversight, and Quality

SUBJECT: EMS Licensed Facility Entry

This alert is being sent to:

- Provide guidance to licensed long term care providers regarding minimum standard protocols for EMS personnel entering and performing essential functions in facilities.

EMS personnel are essential visitors according to the DHS Executive Letter dated March 10, 2020. It is always in the best interest of the residents to allow quick entry to EMS with as little obstruction as possible.

In collaboration with the department and local EMS providers, emergency personnel will take every precaution to limit the possibility of spreading the COVID-19 virus. EMS personnel can be expected to utilize PPE and practice infection control protocols under the assumption that the active virus is present, regardless of symptoms or reported cases.

- It is extremely important for providers to *proactively* engage (in person, by phone or via teleconference) with their local fire and life safety response teams to review and mutually understand current infection control and COVID-19 requirements.
- Facilities shall develop an established entry procedure for EMS responders. At a minimum, if EMS is called by the facility, a staff member shall be assigned to meet the EMTs at the entrance and escort them to the resident room.
- An expedited COVID-19 visitor screening may be conducted, so long as it does not delay the EMTs access to the resident.

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- For example, a limited questionnaire may be conducted en route to resident's room.
- EMT personnel should be using PPE throughout the visit. Facilities may request that EMTs utilize PPE at all times if they are not doing so.

If EMS is called for a non-emergency or non-injury situation or for medical transport:

- The resident shall be prepared and ready for transports at the entrance. Staff shall greet EMS and provide the appropriate paperwork or additional information as necessary.
- If EMS arrives for a non-injury or non-life threatening situation, the facility may conduct an expedited visitor screening prior to escorting EMTs to the resident's room.

For additional questions please email:

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