



Updated Guidance (as of 2/17/2020) for Public Safety Personnel **Responding to patients with fever and respiratory symptoms** **and those with a positive travel history**

Please note that this guidance replaces the previous Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma guidance that was released on 1/30/2020.

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and the CDC are closely monitoring the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by COVID-19 (the official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak) that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. DPH is working with all of our federal, state and local partners in preparation for and response to this emerging public health threat. As part of that response, DPH is recommending that EMS agencies and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) follow the current guidance from the CDC. 911 centers may also choose to use the latest Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance Tool (Coronavirus/SRI/MERS/Ebola) published by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch.

CDC COVID-19 Website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

For EMS and 911 PSAP related guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

IAED Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance Tool (Coronavirus/SRI/MERS/Ebola):

https://prioritydispatch-media.s3.amazonaws.com/prioritydispatch.net/pdf/NAE-EIDS_Tool_v6-0-0.pdf

In addition to the guidance from the CDC, public safety agencies are encouraged to notify the Georgia Department of Public Health Medical Epidemiologist on call at 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584) to report a patient with a positive travel history, fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath).

Electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) Documentation

• Recent Travel/Travel Locations

- As a reminder, all EMS personnel are **required** to document the recent travel question (itExam.070 – “Has the patient traveled outside their community within the last 30 days?”) on ALL patient contacts in their ePCR.
 - “Community” is defined by the medical director and need not be limited to just travel outside of the United States.
 - Choices for the travel question include: “No,” “Yes,” “Unknown,” “Unresponsive,” “Refused.”
- If the answer to the travel question is “Yes,” then the medic is required to answer the following additional questions:
 - itExam.072 - Beginning Travel Date
 - itExam.071 - Ending Travel Date
 - itExam.074 - Travel Locations (Document all places and locations the patient has traveled in the last 30 days)

• Narrative

- Include the term “COVID-19” in the narrative (eNarrative.01) for any patient that has a positive travel history (as defined by the CDC for COVID-19) and is symptomatic.

Questions? Reach out to your Regional EMS Director (contact information below) or 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584).

Regional EMS Director Contact Information

Region	Counties	Regional EMS Director
1	Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker and Whitfield	David T. Foster 404-989-4231 david.foster@dph.ga.gov
2	Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White	Lanier Swafford 404-859-9489 lanier.swafford@dph.ga.gov
3	Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale	EJ Dailey 404-597-9775 ej.dailey@dph.ga.gov
4	Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Fayette, Heard, Henry, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup and Upson	Vincent Harris 404-323-4798 vincent.harris@dph.ga.gov
5	Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Dodge, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Monroe, Montgomery, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Telfair, Treutlen, Twiggs, Washington, Wheeler, Wilcox and Wilkinson	Kelly Joiner 470-599-9279 kelly.joiner@dph.ga.gov
6	Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren and Wilkes	Gary Pinard 470-898-6254 gary.pinard@dph.ga.gov
7	Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Talbot, Taylor and Webster	Russ McGee 404-319-4581 russ.mcgee@dph.ga.gov
8	Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Sumter, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner and Worth	Robert Vick 404-989-5173 robert.vick@dph.ga.gov
9	Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Coffee, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Pierce, Tattnall, Toombs, Ware and Wayne	Robert Shad 706-993-6177 robert.shad@dph.ga.gov
10	Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton	Chris Threlkeld 706-816-0837 chris.threlkeld@dph.ga.gov