

Northern Virginia EMS Council COVID-19 EMS PPE Donning & Doffing Procedures at Hospitals

BACKGROUND

Global response efforts to COVID-19 have created supply chain shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), critical to the safety of emergency medical services (EMS) providers, hospital staff, and community members. First responder and receiver organizations share the common goal of implementing approaches that maximize the availability of PPE and reduce possible infectious disease exposure to patients, providers, and staff.

At the request of the Northern Virginia Fire Chiefs Committee, the region's Operational Medical Directors (OMD), EMS Chiefs, and representatives from area hospitals met to identify a standardized, regional approach to address concerns with bringing potentially contaminated equipment into hospitals, streamlining donning and doffing procedures for first responders, and maximizing the limited supply of PPE.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline the regional approaches for EMS PPE donning and doffing procedures during transfer of COVID-19 patient care at Northern Virginia hospitals.

REGIONAL APPROACHES

Approach 1

- Upon arrival at a receiving facility, staff will meet the patient and EMS providers at the entrance of the building to transfer the patient. EMS providers will not enter the building, nor change PPE prior to contact with hospital staff.

Approach 2

- EMS agencies will adhere to donning and doffing procedures, as identified by area hospitals (please see Appendix A for a full list of procedures). As part of the patient transfer process, the hospitals will provide a minimum of one isolation gown per EMS unit. This will ensure EMS providers have the appropriate level of protection to properly decontaminate their units upon exiting the facility. If reentering the hospital, EMS providers will doff and dispose of all PPE used to decontaminate their unit.

Approach 3¹

- EMS providers will enter the facility, transferring the patient to hospital staff without changing PPE. Providers will immediately exit the hospital without touching any surfaces.

¹ This approach will not be utilized within any Inova care site.

NEXT STEPS

At the discretion of each hospital, the following next steps may be taken:

- Updates will be made to the Virginia Hospital Alerting & Status System (VHASS) indicating the respective hospital's approach.
- Signage will be established at the emergency department entrance indicating the respective hospital's approach.

Appendix A:

EMS Donning and Doffing Procedures at Northern Virginia Hospitals

Facility	PPE Donning and Doffing Approach
Fauquier Hospital	Approach 1
Inova Health System	Approach 2
Mary Washington Hospital & Emergency Department at Lee's Hill	Approach 3
Novant	Approach 1
Reston Hospital Center	Approach 3
Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center	Approach 3
Stafford Hospital	Approach 3
StoneSprings Hospital Center	Approach 3
Virginia Hospital Center	Approach 2