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Department of Public Safety

Guidance on Fire and EMS Department Non-Emergency Activities

Updated on May 07, 2021

Based on Governor Scott's Phased Reopening Plan Step Two, as of May 7, 2021 the following guidelines are meant to be used by Fire and EMS departments as best safe practices for activities related to non-emergency operations. This guidance only applies to departments whose responders have the need to participate in trainings, meetings, and work details within the confines of the emergency services facility or other designated locations. This guidance does not apply to emergency response.

Requirements for Entry:

Prior to any in-person activity at your station the following are responsibilities of the department leadership and attendees:

- Individuals shall not attend if they have received a positive test for COVID-19 within the previous 14 days. Individuals should also not attend if they have been recommended to quarantine due to health, contact, or travel reasons or if they have not completed a recommended quarantine according to Department of Health guidelines.
- Individuals shall not attend if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- A safety officer who is knowledgeable about the most current health and safety requirements must be appointed for each event.
- Prior to entering the facility individuals shall be screened per the department screening guidelines, to ensure they have no symptoms of COVID-19.
- The most current health and safety requirements shall be posted and all individuals entering the facility shall be made aware of them
 - The following signage shall be posted at the entrances to the facility:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/StayHomeFromWork_Horizontal.pdf
 - At the entrances of any designated common area or room the department shall clearly post the policy limiting the occupancy of the space, and the minimum social distancing, hand washing/hand sanitizing and space cleaning requirements. Signage is available [here](#)
- The facility must be routinely disinfected and have sufficient disinfection supplies on hand. Disinfecting guidance is available [here](#).

The following rules apply for activities where all participants are fully vaccinated with the exception of one additional non vaccinated individual:

Training, Meetings and Work Details

- No limit is placed on the number of individuals that may participate providing that the number remains within the capacity of the room.

- No face-coverings are required for vaccinated populations inside areas of stations that are closed to the public. However, if the public can freely enter the space, masks are still required. PPE requirements for operational duty have not changed.
- It is recommended that all individuals maintain adequate social distancing when possible.

The following rules apply for activities where two or more of the participants are not fully vaccinated:

Classroom-Based Training and Meetings

- Where Classroom-based training that involves practical evolutions that can not be completed virtually and are considered essential to a department's operational status, the following rules shall be in place:
 - All participants must wear a department approved procedural face masks while in the facility.
 - The facility used must provide sufficient space for adequate social distancing of participants. Activities should always be spaced 6 feet apart and individuals should maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet unless close contact is absolutely necessary.
 - When participation requires close contact (within six feet), personal protective equipment shall include eye protection and gloves in addition to the required face covering.
 - If multiple groups use the same facility, care must be taken to ensure that each group remains distinctly separate without commingling in shared spaces.
 - The space should be well ventilated, preferably allowing significant outside air replacement rather than recirculation.

Outdoor Training and Work Details (to include large open well-ventilated areas including apparatus bays)

- Where outdoor training takes place, the following rules shall be in place:
 - All participants must wear department approved procedural face masks while in proximity to others.
 - Activities should always be spaced 6 feet apart and participants should maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet unless close contact is absolutely necessary.
 - When participation requires close contact (within six feet), personal protective equipment shall include eye protection and gloves in addition to the required face covering.
 - When vehicle use is required and the availability of vehicles requires more than one occupant, procedural face masks shall be worn by all. Passenger compartments should be well ventilated, preferably allowing significant outside air replacement rather than recirculation.