

Changes are in red

Vermont EMS practitioners are faced with unique challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, including a decreased supply of personal protective equipment, potential exposure to infectious patients, and operating under contingency of operation plans. This guidance document is designed to help providers effectively document information related to responses during this pandemic, as well as assist agency leadership for planning and reporting purposes.

Please see the **COVID-19 Overview FAQ** for more background information on this new guidance.

COVID-19 Supplemental Questions

- COVID-19 supplemental questions have been added to the run form under a new panel called “**COVID-19 / PPE**”. They are:
 1. *Was the patient screened by EMS for COVID-19 symptoms?*
 2. *Did the patient have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath)?*
 3. *Has the patient had contact with someone being monitored for or diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days of symptom onset?*
 4. *If EMS suspects or knows the patient has COVID-19, was the receiving facility notified?*

Documenting PPE Use

- A PPE/supply items grid was added to the new “**COVID-19 / PPE**” panel. Agencies should use this grid to document the types and total quantities of disposable items used by crew members and patient(s) during an incident.
- A text box was added to capture PPE/supply items that are not included as a dropdown option in the grid. This text box can also be used to document additional PPE information that agencies or EMS districts are requesting.

Documenting Other Agencies On Scene

- It is critically important to document other agencies that were on scene, including first response services, fire departments, and law enforcement that responded. This will help the Health Department with their contact tracing and case investigation efforts in the event a COVID-19 case utilizes emergency services and help keep responders informed of their potential exposure.
 - You can document this in two ways:
 1. *Preferred method:* Response > Scene > Other Agencies On Scene. If an agency is missing from the list, please email SIREN@vermont.gov to have them added.
 2. *Alternative method:* write it in the narrative.

Primary Working Diagnosis and Secondary Working Diagnosis

- “COVID-19” was added as a primary and secondary working diagnosis.

Print Report Forms

- Two COVID-19 print report forms were created:
 1. **Vermont Run Form PDF – COVID/PPE (With Attachments)** is the same as the default EMS form but with COVID-19 and PPE fields added to it.
 2. **COVID Exposure / Contact Investigation Form** is an abbreviated print report form that contains information needed by the Health Department for contact investigations. The District Medical Advisors may also find this form useful.

Report Writer: 2 Reports (PPE and COVID Questions)

- The **COVID-19 Screening and Exposure Questions Report** in report writer displays COVID-19 supplemental questions as well as other fields (crew member list, incident/patient disposition, receiving facility, and shift) by the incident date and time of the EMS call. The report will prompt you to enter the date range of interest and your agency name. This report does not include the PPE fields.
- The **COVID-19 PPE Report** will allow agencies to view the quantity of disposable PPE used during each call. Please note that this does not specify which PPE was worn by the crew members or the patient; it just lists the type and quantity of the item used. Please use either the supplemental PPE question in the COVID / PPE panel or the narrative to document the type of PPE used by each responder.

Documenting Signature of a Transported Patient

- If a patient with known or suspected COVID-19 is transported to a hospital/facility and the hospital/receiving agent signs the form on the patient’s behalf, the appropriate **Signature Reason** for “**Type of Person Signing > Hospital**” is “**Patient/Medical Necessity Unable to Sign**”.

Documenting Non-Transport: Incident/Patient Disposition

- When the **COVID-19: Field Triage Guidance protocol** is utilized and a joint decision between the EMS crew and online Medical Direction determines that the patient meets criteria for home care instead of transportation to the hospital, the appropriate “**Incident/Patient Disposition**” is “**Treated and Released per Protocol**”.

Documenting Non-Transport: Patient's Signatures

- When the **COVID-19: Field Triage Guidance** protocol is utilized, and both the EMS crew and online Medical Direction determine that the patient meets criteria for home care instead of transportation to the hospital, the appropriate **Signature Reason** for “Type of Person Signing > Patient” is “**Permission to Treat**”.

Protocols Used

- The appropriate protocol to use for documenting COVID-19-related incidents in SIREN is “**Policy – Bloodborne/Airborne Pathogens**”.