Texas Department of State Health Services

<u>Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transporting</u> Patients

EMS should assume each patient may be COVID-19 positive. EMS clinicians should exercise appropriate precautions when responding to any patient with signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection. Initial assessment should begin from a distance of at least 6 feet from the patient, if possible.

Apply the appropriate Personal Protection Equipment to include: - N-95 or surgical mask - Gloves & gown - Face shield or goggles Provide patient with surgical mask unless advanced airway skills are needed Notify hospital/healthcare facility of suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patient transport Transport patient & transfer care to healthcare facility. Leave rear doors open to allow for sufficient air exchanges. Decontaminate vehicle and equipment while wearing new full PPE* Vehicle and crew can return to service Crews should self-monitor for symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath) for 14 days. If you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, or shortness of breath), do not report to work.

^{*}Decontamination does not require an N95 respirator; instead, a face shield or facemask and goggles are sufficient.