



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Dale M. Berry
Sharon A. Lowry
Scott R. Paulson
Gary P. Smiga, Fiscal Officer
Jesse K. Lightle, Township Administrator

Dear Administrator,

April 7, 2020

As you are most acutely aware, COVID-19 infections continue to rise throughout Ohio. We need your cooperation in helping us continue to provide the finest available emergency medical services to our community.

We would like to request that your staff facilitate increased medical safety for everyone involved by moving individuals, needing medical attention, to an entry/exit point in the facility, when at all physically possible. Additionally, weather and location permitting, we would like to have the individual moved outside the entry/exit door, with a member of your staff remaining with them to help responding EMS professionals in obtaining relevant information.

When movement of the individual to or beyond the entry/exit point in the facility is possible, such action can and will minimize the number of non-staff and non-resident persons in your facility, further improving your facility's infection control measures. However, we continue to understand that there will be some instances when the individual cannot be safely moved prior to Fire Department arrival such as: a suspected pelvic/hip fracture, active seizures, or the risk of fall or injury to the individual or your staff.

In situations of suspected COVID-19, we are asking that you place a surgical style mask (when it is available as we all recognize the continuing significant stress on PPE supplies in the United States) on the individual unless breathing difficulties would be worsened by doing so. These requested actions will work towards achieving the following goals:

1. Moving individuals requiring ambulance transportation to a hospital as far away as possible from others in the facility, particularly keeping them away from areas of congregation, dining, etc. This can help minimize their infectivity to others.
2. Minimizing the extent of our EMS professionals and EMS medical equipment inside your facility. Our Firefighters, EMTs, and Paramedics are trained in the use of COVID-19 personal protective equipment. They are conducting carefully performed wipe-down decontamination of medical equipment, including patient cot, when indicated. That said, limiting exposure of them and their equipment is in everyone's safety interest. Healthy Firefighters, EMTs, and Paramedics mean that we will be able to continue to provide our community businesses residents, and visitors emergency medical services when most needed in the challenging weeks and months ahead of us.

We greatly value the crucial role you play in this community and are working diligently to be available for your critical patients. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Deputy Chief of Operations, Ian Emmons at ian.emmons@washingtontwp.org.

Sincerely,
Scott Kujawa, Fire Chief

