

Point of Care COVID Testing

Effective Date: 12/01/2020

Review Date:

Approvals: EMS MD, EMSSC

Background to Policy

With the outbreak of COVID and increased risk of EMS providers contracting COVID, it is imperative that agencies have the ability to perform COVID testing on site for their own personnel.

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to create guidelines and ensure that agencies using Point of Care (POC) COVID testing follow state and federal requirements

Policy

- A. All agencies must ensure they follow local, state, and federal guidelines and policies for use of this policy
- B. Agencies must work with local health departments to ensure that testing is valid, and results are being reported appropriately.
- C. Only licensed EMT, A-EMT, EMT- I, EMT-P/PHRN/PHPA/PHAPRN are allowed to administer the test
- D. The only approved test is the BinaxNow Antigen Test.
- E. This test is only for peoples ages 18 and above
- F. All agencies licensed at EMT and above may use this for their personnel as long as they meet all system, LHD and IDPH requirements
- G. Agencies must complete appropriate training requirements set forth by either the EMS system, the local health department, or the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).
- H. Results must be reported to the IDPH reporting system within 24 hours of a positive test
 - a. Agencies must keep a record of personnel being tested including:
 - i. Name
 - ii. Age
 - iii. Dates
 - iv. Times
 - v. Location
 - vi. Positive/Negative Results
 - vii. Test administered by
 - viii. Adverse reactions
- I. Providers administering the test must complete all mandatory training and continuing education as required by the local health department, IDPH or the manufacture's recommendation
 - a. List of providers who completed training must be submitted to the EMS prior to administration of the test
 - b. Testing will follow manufactures training materials
 - i. Including video modules

- ii. Completion of skills/written test developed by manufacture
 - iii. Continuing education must be done in accordance to manufactures recommendations or to meet state or federal requirements
- J. It is the agencies responsibility to track all test administered, equipment and supplies. Agencies will be required to maintain equipment and supplies in a manner that is safe and within the manufacture's recommendations.
- K. Proper PPE must be worn during the administration of these test including but not limited to:
 - a. Gowns
 - b. Gloves
 - c. Eye protection or face shield
 - d. N95 or higher protection mask
 - e. This standard is required for symptomatic and asymptomatic patients
 - i. If a person who is being tested is symptomatic and does not require medical care, that person should be directed back to their homes immediately
 - ii. Any location that symptomatic person was in contact with should be decontaminated with cleaning product that meets CDC criteria for COVID
 - iii. It is recommended that persons who are symptomatic follow up with their primary care physician.
 - iv. Persons requiring immediate medical treatment should have the 911 system activated
- L. Testing will only be completed in indoor settings in large enough space for safer airflow (i.e apparatus bay, large training room)
- M. All supplies must be disposed in the proper bio-hazard receptacles per the manufacture requirements.
- N. This must not be used on routine 911 calls. This is for internal personnel use only.
- O. Consent must be formally recorded, and records kept by administrating agency
- P. Adverse issues must be documented. The following should be done for adverse reactions
 - a. Follow basic first aid treatment for persons experiencing adverse reactions such as nose bleeds.
 - b. Activate the 911 system for person's experiencing any life-threatening conditions
- Q. The medical director or their designee has ultimate authority to halt testing if any or all these requirements are not followed.
- R. EMS may request copies of documentation at various times to ensure compliance with policy.