

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



**STEVEN BELLONE**  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

**JAMES L. TOMARKEN, MD, MPH, MBA, MSW**  
Commissioner

TO: All EMS Providers and Firefighters in Suffolk County  
All Ambulance Services and Fire Departments in Suffolk County

FROM: Nathaniel Bialek, BS, EMT-P, CCHP *NB*  
Director, EMS & Public Health  
Emergency Preparedness

DATE: January 27, 2020

**RE: Dispatch Procedure Modification – Addition of FCT Response Suffix**

With the increased national attention to the Novel Coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China, and now five (5) identified cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) within the United States, none of which have been found within New York State, the Suffolk County EMS Division, in consultation with the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Service (FRES) and the EMS System Medical Director, in an effort to protect personnel responding to potentially infectious patients, have added the following notification and dispatch identifier:

Effective today, Suffolk County FRES Communications and other local EMS dispatch centers, will commence the use of the “FCT” suffix (Fever, Cough and Travel), which will be added to emergency medical dispatch (EMD) determinant codes to give responding personnel as much pre-arrival information as possible about potential patient(s). This code will alert responding agencies that the potential patient has Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) symptoms, has traveled outside the US within the previous twenty-one (21) days and that appropriate precautions should be taken.

This is an additional designation to the already existing “FC” suffix (Fever & Cough). This suffix will continue to be added to emergency medical dispatch (EMD) determinant codes for patients reporting Flu-Like-Illness (ILI) symptoms, without travel and (“ID”) for Infectious Disease remains in effect when signs/symptoms indicate suspicion of potential Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

EMS providers should be especially vigilant when encountering any patient with fever, cough and trouble breathing and we encourage providers to observe **Universal Precautions, circulate the air in the patient compartment during transport, wash hands frequently, and decontaminate non-disposable patient care items and interior ambulance surfaces on a regular and frequent basis. This includes the use of gowns and gloves, eye protection and N95/N100 respirators on all providers, and placing a non-rebreather oxygen mask with oxygen on patients.**

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**If an agency is interested in obtain N95 masks at no charge, please contact the EMS Division Office at the below numbers. Please remember we have staff available week days, week nights and weekend days.**

**Main Number – (631) 852-5080**  
**Dina Wayrich – (631) 852-4647**

**The EMS Division has a limited amount of N95 mask for distribution to agencies in need as a stop-gap-measure until agencies are able to obtain a sufficient amount of respiratory protection devices from their own vendors.**

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Please don't hesitate to call (631) 852-5080 or email [nathaniel.bialek@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:nathaniel.bialek@suffolkcountyny.gov) if you have any questions or require any additional assistance. We will continue to keep you informed from time to time as the situation evolves.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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