



LAW ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE FOR CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

What are the top key messages law enforcement should know?

- COVID-19 is a respiratory illness.
- The virus causing COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person via respiratory droplets among close contacts (within 6 feet). Respiratory droplets are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can land in the mouths or noses, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs, of people who are nearby.

Close contact includes:

- Being within approximately 6 feet or less of an individual with COVID-19 for a prolonged time.
- Having direct contact with bodily fluids (such as blood, phlegm, and respiratory droplets) from an individual with COVID-19.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- Symptoms can include fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath.
- Data suggests that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days, after exposure.

How do you protect yourself from exposure?

- If possible, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet.
- Practice proper hand hygiene. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available and illicit drugs are NOT suspected to be present, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- When possible ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) have contact with individuals who have or may have COVID-19.
- Learn your employer's plan for exposure control.

Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

If law enforcement personnel MUST make contact with individuals confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19, they should follow [CDC's guidance for EMS](https://www.cdc.gov/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/operational-guidance/index.html). A different style of PPE may be necessary to perform operational duties. These alternative styles (i.e. coveralls) must provide protection that is at least as great as that provided by the minimum amount of PPE recommended.

Minimum PPE recommended is:

- Gloves (single layer)
- Disposable gown or single use/disposable coveralls (if unable to wear a disposable gown or coveralls because of limiting access to duty belt and gear, ensure duty belt and gear are disinfected after contact with individual).
- Any National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health-approved particulate respirator- N95 or higher-level respirator.
- Eye protection (i.e. goggles, disposable face shield that fully covers front & side of the face)

If close contact with a COVID-19 individual occurs during apprehension:

- Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse using a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the product label.
- Even though your uniform may not appear contaminated, you will need to follow operating procedures for containing and laundering clothes. Avoid shaking clothes.
- Follow standard operating procedures for containment and disposal of any used PPE.

If an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 is in law enforcement administrative custody and requires medical evaluation, contact EMS. Do not transport them in your vehicle.

If an individual in custody requires EMS transport:

- Consistent with Michigan EMS protocols, if EMS deems the individual in administrative custody is to be transported to a healthcare facility, law enforcement must accompany the patient, preferably in the driver's compartment to limit exposure.

Is the EMS driver's compartment Isolated or Non-Isolated?

- Before entering the ISOLATED EMS driver's compartment, law enforcement should remove and dispose of PPE and perform hand hygiene to avoid soiling the driver's compartment.
- Before entering the NON- ISOLATED EMS driver's compartment, law enforcement should remove their face shield or goggles, gown and gloves, and perform hand hygiene. A N95-respirator should continue to be used during transport.

Please refer to the following information that comes from [IACP's guidance for law enforcement](#):

COVID-19-infected droplets may be able to live on nearly any surface. Consider sanitizing items you frequently touch during a shift including:

- Phone,
- Laptop,
- Clipboard, and
- Patrol car equipment including:
 - Steering wheel,
 - Gear shift,
 - Dispatch radio module, and
 - Door handles and edges.