March 4, 2020

TO: Fire Chiefs
    Fire Police Captains
    EMS Captains
    Police Chiefs
    Emergency Management Coordinators

COVID-19 Information Bulletin 03 04 20

To ensure consistent messaging regarding COVID-19, we are providing you with valuable information related to our Health Department partners and their behind the scenes work on this issue.

The Chester County Health Department (CCHD) is the lead agency in Chester County for COVID-19 planning, preparedness, and response efforts. They have been, and will continue working closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other entities to track the progression of COVID-19. As part of their role, the CCHD is responsible for identifying any person or persons who may have an increased risk of potential exposure due to their symptoms, travel history, or combination of both. CCHD employs a variety of strategies in monitoring these individuals, including but not limited to:

**Active Monitoring:** CCHD has established regular communication with potentially exposed people to assess the presence of fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. For people with high-risk exposures, CDC recommends this communication occurs at least once each day. The mode of communication may include telephone calls or any electronic or internet-based means of communication.

**Quarantine:** This strategy involves the separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease but not yet symptomatic, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease. Quarantine can be a voluntary process.

When CCHD deems any type of monitoring to be appropriate, they notify DES of the address of the individual(s), and that address has Special Situation (SS) information entered into CAD. Upon activation of the 9-1-1 system for an incident at that address, responders will receive information via the Location of Interest (LOI) tab in MPS. The note will be: “Subject(s) at this location is under evaluation/monitoring by the Health Department coronavirus monitoring and prevention team. Responders should take appropriate PPE precautions. Transport destinations must be notified prior to arrival.” Dispatchers should relay this information verbally to responders without access to an MDC. The SS information will be removed after the individual(s) has completed their active monitoring/quarantine.

*The Mission of the Department of Emergency Services is to promote and assist in providing safety and security to Chester County citizens so they can work, live, and grow in a healthy and safe community.*
Only CCHD can determine if monitoring is necessary for individuals. Should EMS encounter a patient they believe has been exposed to COVID-19, they should provide that information to the receiving facility, who in turn will follow the appropriate process established by the CCHD.

CCHD has opened its Health Operations Center (HOC) which is currently located in the EOC. The HOC has begun generating a Situation Report (SitRep) that provides a high level overview of their activities and informational updates. We will begin sharing those SitReps with you this week.

To receive the most up-to-date information please visit the Chester County Health Department website at https://www.chesco.org/4376/Coronavirus-COVID-19

It is our goal to ensure that our first responders have accurate and current information to enable appropriate preparedness and response capability. We hope you find this information valuable.