

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 19, 2020
TO: EMS Service Directors
RE: KBEMS Guidance - 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Ambulance Cleaning

The following is designed to express the current best practice as it relates to Ambulance Cleaning following the transportation by ambulance of a person under investigation (PUI) or a patient with confirmed COVID-19.

The Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services encourages all ambulance services to utilize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance as it relates to COVID-19. This guidance is continually being updated and the most current version may be found at the following website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

The CDC does offer guidance specific to “Cleaning EMS Transport Vehicles after Transporting a PUI or Patient with Confirmed COVID-19”. Specifically in the following two sections,

- “Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g., using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product’s label) are appropriate for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed.”; and
- “Clean and disinfect the vehicle in accordance with standard operating procedures. All surfaces that may have come in contact with the patient or materials contaminated during patient care (e.g., stretcher, rails, control panels, floors, walls, work surfaces) should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using an EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant in accordance with the product label.”

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has List N which includes products that meet EPA’s registration criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2. That list can be found at the following website:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

All cleaning should be done at the receiving facility where the patient is removed from the ambulance.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL RETURNING TO THE STATION TO CLEAN/DISINFECT THE UNIT.

Currently, there is no indication that an ambulance would need to be quarantined due to transporting a suspected patient, PUI, or patient with confirmed COVID-19. Most ambulances should be able to be cleaned and back into service within 30-45 minutes.

As always, if you have any questions, please let us know.



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