

**Ministry of Health**

Emergency Health Regulatory and  
Accountability Branch

5700 Yonge Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M2M 4K5  
Tel.: 647- 633-8756  
Fax: 416 327-7879  
Toll Free: 800-461-6431

**Ministère de la Santé**

Direction de la réglementation et de la  
responsabilisation des services de santé  
d'urgence

5700 rue Yonge, 6e étage  
Toronto ON M2M 4K5  
Tél.: 647 633-8756  
Télééc.: 416 327-7879  
Appels sans frais: 800-461-6431

February 20, 2020

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Paramedic Chiefs, Ornge and First Nations

**FROM:** Steven Haddad  
Director (I)  
Emergency Health Regulatory and Accountability Branch

**RE:** **Training Bulletin, Issue Number 120 - Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) v1.2**

---

I am pleased to present an update to the Training Bulletin, Issue Number 120 - Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Training Bulletin). Since the publication of the initial Training Bulletin in January 2020, the Emergency Health Regulatory and Accountability Branch (EHRAB) has worked to incorporate feedback received by stakeholders into the Training Bulletin.

I wanted to take this opportunity to address a common question received by EHRAB regarding the appropriate time to don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) outlined in the Training Bulletin:

**Scenario 1** – Patient screened POSITIVE by the provincial Central Ambulance Communication Centres (CACC) / Ambulance Communication Services (ACS):

- Both paramedics should don the PPE outlined in the Training Bulletin prior to patient contact.

**Scenario 2** – Patient screened NEGATIVE by the provincial CACC / ACS:

- Paramedics should screen all patients using the “COVID-19 Screening Tool” found in the Training Bulletin. The assessment should be conducted by one paramedic, immediately upon arrival and prior to a second paramedic entering the scene.

- This assessment should be done at a minimum distance of two (2) metres, but does not require the donning of PPE.
- If the patient screens POSITIVE based on the paramedic assessment, both paramedics should don the PPE outlined in the Training Bulletin immediately.
- If the patient screens NEGATIVE, but is presenting with a fever and/or new onset of cough or difficulty breathing, paramedics should don the appropriate PPE outlined in Part B “Communicable Disease Management” of the [Patient Care and Transportation Standards v2.2](#).

EHRAB is continuing to work with the Health System Emergency Management Branch (HSEMB) and the Emergency Health Program Management and Delivery Branch (EHPMDB) of the Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario, Paramedic Services and the Ontario Base Hospital Group Medical Advisory Committee (OBHG MAC) to monitor the evolving situation and provide additional guidance to paramedics if necessary.

As a reminder, the English and French versions of this Training Bulletin can be found on the [EHS – Paramedic Practice Documents](#) webpage. Additional information and guidance documents can be found on the [Ministry of Health - COVID-19](#) webpage.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Georgakopoulos, Senior Manager, Regulatory and Standards Oversight at 416-327-9462 or [chris.georgakopoulos@ontario.ca](mailto:chris.georgakopoulos@ontario.ca).

Sincerely;

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

---

Steven Haddad

Enclosure

c: Alison Blair, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Health Service Division  
Clint Shingler, Director, HSEMB  
Director, Senior Managers/Managers, EHPMDB  
Senior Managers/Managers, EHRAB  
Dr. R. Dionne, Co-Chair, OBHG MAC  
T. Dodd, Co-Chair, OBHG MAC  
Paramedic Program Coordinators  
Ornge SA Carriers