

GENERAL ORDER: COVID-19 RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS

ADM-DO: 7

Purpose

Since the middle of March 2020, the United States has experienced a pandemic due to the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Because of the pandemic, and in order to keep our personnel as safe as possible, we have had to make changes to our response protocols. This has been challenging, since on a regular basis the recommendations for safe and effective public safety responses have changed. Because of the changing recommendation, this Direct Order may be updated from time to time.

Policy Considerations

On March 12, 2020, LARC Dispatch instituted advanced interview screening processes for COVID 19. These protocols screened EMS calls for symptoms to better prepare EMS and LE crews responding to calls. Advisements were all given to all officers regarding the use of PPE.

On March 17, 2020, we instituted processes to encourage handling calls via phone calls.

On March 17, 2020, officers were advised that they would no longer be allowed in Dispatch or Records. Officers could continue to use the Report stations in the LARC conference room. This mandate will remain in effect until further notice.

On March 17, 2020, officers were advised that they should not respond directly into EMS calls unless they could articulate that they needed to do so for life safety purposes. This mandate will remain in effect until further notice.

On March 30, 2020, we adopted distancing in roll calls, on traffic stops, and reminded officers not to enter residences on EMS calls.

In April 2020, officers were supplied with cloth face coverings. Officers were advised that they should have the face coverings with them and don them if they were requested by a member of the public to do so. Officers were also reminded of the need to practice proper distancing measures, to use recommended hygiene procedures, and to stay home if they experience any possible COVID symptoms. Supervisor were directed to monitor their personnel daily to ensure that they were well and not showing any COVID symptoms. All personnel were advised to use proper distancing measures while in the PD.

In April 2020, officers were advised that they must don face coverings if any businesses, health care facilities, or residential owners mandated face coverings.

On May 18, 2020, we advised officers that they would have options for self-isolation in the event they had a possible COVID exposure.

In July 2020, officers were supplied with Department issued face coverings and advised that they should always have them available when working. Officers may use personal face coverings, but they must be Departmentally approved.

When used, face covering must be positioned so that the mouth and nose are completely covered.

Based on emerging recommendations, effective July 9, 2020, officers shall adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Officers shall always be aware of and follow proper distancing measures. This includes keeping at least six (6) feet away from members of the public. Being closer for very short periods of time (to accept documents on traffic stops and accidents, to obtain documents on other calls for service) is acceptable but the time spent in close proximity shall be as limited as possible.
2. When entering residences, businesses, or other enclosed areas, officers shall use their face coverings. If members of the public request that officers remove the face coverings, they may be removed.
3. Officers shall use their face coverings whenever they find themselves in large gatherings, either in enclosed environments or outside, if proper distancing cannot be maintained outside.
4. When feasible, and when officer safety is not compromised, face coverings shall be donned when making any custodial arrests.
5. Officers shall continue to don face coverings if asked by any member of the public to do so.
6. In any situation where the use of Department issued Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is called for (searches of people or vehicles, EMS responses in which the officer determines a life safety issues exists, etc.) PPE shall be donned.

All provisions of this direct order are subject to change.

This Direct Order, titled COVID-19 Response Considerations ADM-DO: 7, is effective July 9, 2020.

By Order of _____
Dale A. Stalder, Chief of Police

Distribution: All Personnel via PowerDMS
City Attorney
City Manager

I acknowledge receipt of this electronically distributed General Order/SOP. I understand that I am responsible for reading, understanding, and following this Order as well as any updates or changes that are issued for it. I further understand that my failure to read and have a working knowledge of this General Order/SOP shall not constitute an excuse for failure to abide by this Order.

Personnel Signature

Electronic Distribution Date: July 9, 2020

Audit Date: monthly until further notice