



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE



DATE: APRIL 17, 2020
FROM: CHIEF TIM Q. JOHNSON *TQJ*
DEPUTY SECRETARY - OPERATIONS
TO: ALL NMSP COMMISSIONED AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL
SUBJECT: DIRECTIVE 2020-02
COVID19 RESPONSE

Effective immediately and until further notice, all commissioned and civilian New Mexico State Police personnel must adhere to the following directive/guidance regarding the COVID19 pandemic. Much of the guidance provided below was taken from various sources and best practices from around the country. A vast majority of this has already been sent to the field over that last month.

DIRECTIVE

Protecting the public's health in a time of crisis is our professional responsibility. We will be unsuccessful in our responsibilities if we cannot protect ourselves first. It goes without saying that we have been called upon to fulfill duties outside our norm.

Every contact we have with another individual has the potential for exposure to COVID-19. We must make prevention a personal priority by reducing exposure and risk, recognizing that exposure can come from any individual.

Respirators - All NMSP personnel are required to wear the respirators provided by the department during the following circumstances:

- Upon entering any non-NMSP/DPS building (businesses, hospitals, residences, etc.) If we have business to conduct in a building, respirators are mandatory for the duration of our business.
- Upon entering all NMSP/DPS buildings where other personnel are present and you are unable to maintain at least a distance of six (6) feet from others.
- All outdoor contacts with the public and other NMSP personnel when you are unable to maintain six (6) feet of distance from others.

It is widely understood that respirators are in short supply right now. With that said, we will reuse respirators until the respirators are soiled, or damaged, or until which time the respirator is donned while in contact with an individual who is sick or showing symptoms of being sick. I would respectfully request that you take care of your respirators. Ensure that you don and doff them as trained and store them properly to prevent contamination.

NMSP/DPS Facilities

- NMSP/DPS personnel will not be allowed access to buildings if they are sick or show any signs or symptoms of illness. Visitors will be strictly limited and will only be allowed in if there are no other options. All personnel and visitors shall be required to wash their hands immediately upon entering a DPS facility.
- Members of the public that want to meet with NMSP personnel will be told that NMSP is doing its part to respect the social distancing guidelines provided by healthcare professionals. Alternative options should be explained, including:
 - o Phone calls with NMSP personnel
 - o Conduct business in the lobby or outside
- NMSP personnel should refrain from using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other tools and equipment.
- Disinfect office/cubicle space upon leaving.
- All NMSP fitness rooms will be closed until further notice.

Equipment and Vehicles

- NMSP vehicles should be disinfected at end of each shift and after the transport of any non-NMSP personnel.
- Take inventory of supplies and equipment (First Aid and PPE) and inquire about replacing outdated or worn items.
- Disinfect duty belts, tactical vests, and any other necessary equipment/gear after each shift or potential exposure.
- Disinfect handcuffs after each arrest.
- Officers should attempt to drive with the windows at least partially open to ventilate vehicles.
- Clothing should be washed daily. Avoid shaking clothing when you get home after shift.

Calls for Service

- Our proactive enforcement was adjusted to limit contact.
- Attempt to limit person-to-person contact closer than six (6) feet at crash scenes, calls for service, etc.
- Attempt to limit the unnecessary transfer of items (DL, insurance, registration, etc.) between you and the public.
- NMSP should not enter a citizen's home except in cases of serious life-threatening emergencies.

Potential Exposure

- All potential exposures (on-duty or off) must be reported to a supervisor and up the chain-of-command immediately.
- DOH will be consulted to determine what to do next based on the circumstances.

I appreciate each and every one of you for the job you are doing during these uncertain times. I understand we are currently doing a job that none of us have done before, and hopefully never will again. Thank you so very much for your dedication to this agency and those we serve. We will not get through this unscathed, but I'm certain we will get through this.

TQJ; tqj