**Standard Operating Guideline:** Precautionary Measures During Patient Transport

**Issued:**

**Effective Dates:**

**PURPOSE**: To limit possible contamination of interior surfaces and workspaces in the ambulance and minimize primary and secondary exposure of responders or family members.

**SCOPE**: To provide a consistent and interoperable capability among all fire departments in Massachusetts, this Standard Operating Guideline should be followed by all departments.

**GUIDELINES:** The following guidelines should be followed when a patient being transported is a PUI or known infected COVID-19 patient.

1. Except in the case of a minor child, no family should be allowed to ride in the ambulance during patient transport
2. Prior to transporting the patient, make provisions to contain any potential droplet contamination as follows:
   1. Close all interior compartments
   2. Store unneeded medial bags, etc. in outside compartments or the vehicle cab
   3. Close any connecting doors or windows to the ambulance cab (if possible)
3. The patient attendant must remain in PPE
4. The driver should, upon exiting the patient compartment of the ambulance, reduce PPE, as follows:
   1. Remove gown or coveralls (including over boots if worn)
   2. Remove outer gloves
   3. Remove goggles or face shield
   4. N-95 mask and inner gloves remain in place
5. If a full and effective closure between the cab and patient compartment could not be achieved, establish a negative pressure in the cab, with respect to the patient compartment:
   1. Close outside windows in the cab and patient compartment.
   2. Turn the exhaust fan in the patient compartment on high.
   3. Turn the vent fan in the cab on high (set temperature to comfort)
6. Upon arrival at the hospital, the driver must don new goggles/face shield, a new gown or coveralls (and over boots), and a new set of outer gloves, prior to removing the patient. This PPE should remain on while cleaning the ambulance, after discharging the patient to the hospital.