BREVARD COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

BULLETIN NO: 2020-05

DATE: MARCH 30, 2020 (REVISION 1)

Subject: Employee Self-Monitoring for COVID-19 Symptoms

Fire Service providers, office support staff, dispatch and lifeguards are encouraged to take proactive measures to keep the COVID-19 disease from spreading through our workplaces by having employees self-monitor their temperature and the absence of specific symptoms related to COVID-19.

Effective immediately, employees reporting to work each shift (or at any change of shifts for other reasons), shall take their temperature and record the results as well as the absence of specific symptoms on a daily Self-Monitoring Form (attached below). This process should be repeated approximately every 12 hours while at work or commencing at the start of the work period.

All personnel working at FRC, supply, dispatch, and Brevard County employee visitors will use the primary reception area for their initial daily entry. All persons entering the building shall use the Self-Monitoring Form and record their temperature using a thermometer which will be located in that area. Lifeguards will conduct this screening during roll call. If personnel have been screened at another Fire Rescue work site within the past 12 hours, they will not need to be screened again upon entry.

One Self-Monitoring Form shall be completed per shift or work day. The forms are to be kept in a secure location at the station or on site until further notice. Lieutenants, section Chiefs, Fire Marshall, Communications Manager, and Site Managers will be responsible to ensure that the form is filled out and properly stored for their respective shifts. At FRC, the Fire Chief's office will properly store these forms daily.

Personnel will utilize the tympanic thermometers with probe covers. In order to reduce the use of resources, each person should keep their own cover and wipe down cover and thermometer with an alcohol prep in between individual monitoring.

- Should an employee have a temperature of 100.4 F or higher, or have any of the specific COVID-19 symptoms or develop them during the work day, they should immediately don a facemask, separate themselves from other workers and notify the on-duty Infection Control Officer. A supervised repeat temperature may be warranted after a period of time to avoid a false positive.

- For employees who appear sick at work, supervisors should immediately take steps to separate the employee from others, have the employee wear a facemask, and ensure that the Infection Control Officer is notified.

Personnel Experiencing Flu-Like Symptoms or Exposed to a Suspected COVID-19 Patient

If an employee has fallen ill with fever, cough, sore throat and/or muscle aches before coming to work, that employee should isolate themselves by staying home and contacting their District Chief or respective supervisor.

An employee that has fallen ill with fever, cough, sore throat and/or muscle aches after arriving at work should isolate themselves outside the station or work area and contact the on-duty District Chief/Supervisor directly to report such symptoms. The District Chief/Supervisor will remove the employee from service and send them home and will relay this information to the Office of EMS for surveillance recording. The District Chief/Supervisor will take action to replace the ill employee through proper channels.

Employees that fall ill, displaying the signs and symptoms of influenza, need to return to their home and not report to work until well. The World Health Organization (WHO) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) provide guidance for healthcare workers for returning to work after showing signs and symptoms of influenza. Employees should not return to work for 7 days or until afebrile for 24 hours without the use of antipyretics. Influenza infections generally persist for 7 days.

All decisions regarding treatment and isolation recommendations pertaining to the level of an exposure risk to a BCFR employee from transport of a patient with suspected (known when tests are available) COVID-19 infection, will be rapidly determined based on the Emergency Medicine physician and Health Department assessment and treatment recommendations. The goal is to provide such information shortly after the exposure as soon as this information is available. The Office of EMS will work diligently to gather as much information, testing results if available, and disseminate the findings to the crew members involved during the medical event so the necessary steps can be taken.

If an employee is exposed to an IS Alert patient, they may complete a Confidential COVID-19 Exposure Form. This form is located in the center of the Fire Rescue BEACH Homepage. To access the form, the Fire Rescue BEACH Homepage must be opened using **Internet Explorer**. Once the form is complete, save it to the station computer and then email the saved document to the Infection Control Officer, Mark Weiss, at Mark.Weiss@brevardfl.gov.

FILE DATE: APRIL 30, 2020

Version 2: Updated 3/18/2020

Self Monitoring Form

Employees should record their temperature and check the boxes if they HAVE NOT had these symptoms in the last 12 Hours

Notify Safety Officer / Infection Control Officer if you have a temperature of 100.4 or higher, or HAVE experienced any of these symptoms in the last 12 hours

Date	Name	Time	Temp F°	Cough		Sore Throat		Short of Breath	
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO
		0700			NO		NO		NO
		1900			NO		NO		NO

Exposure:
Low Risk: An employee in close contact to a patient or co-worker who tests positive or negative for COVID-19 and the employee was wearing appropriate mask; or patient and/or employee was wearing a mask and no aerosol-generating procedures were conducted. Employee may continue to work with monitoring.

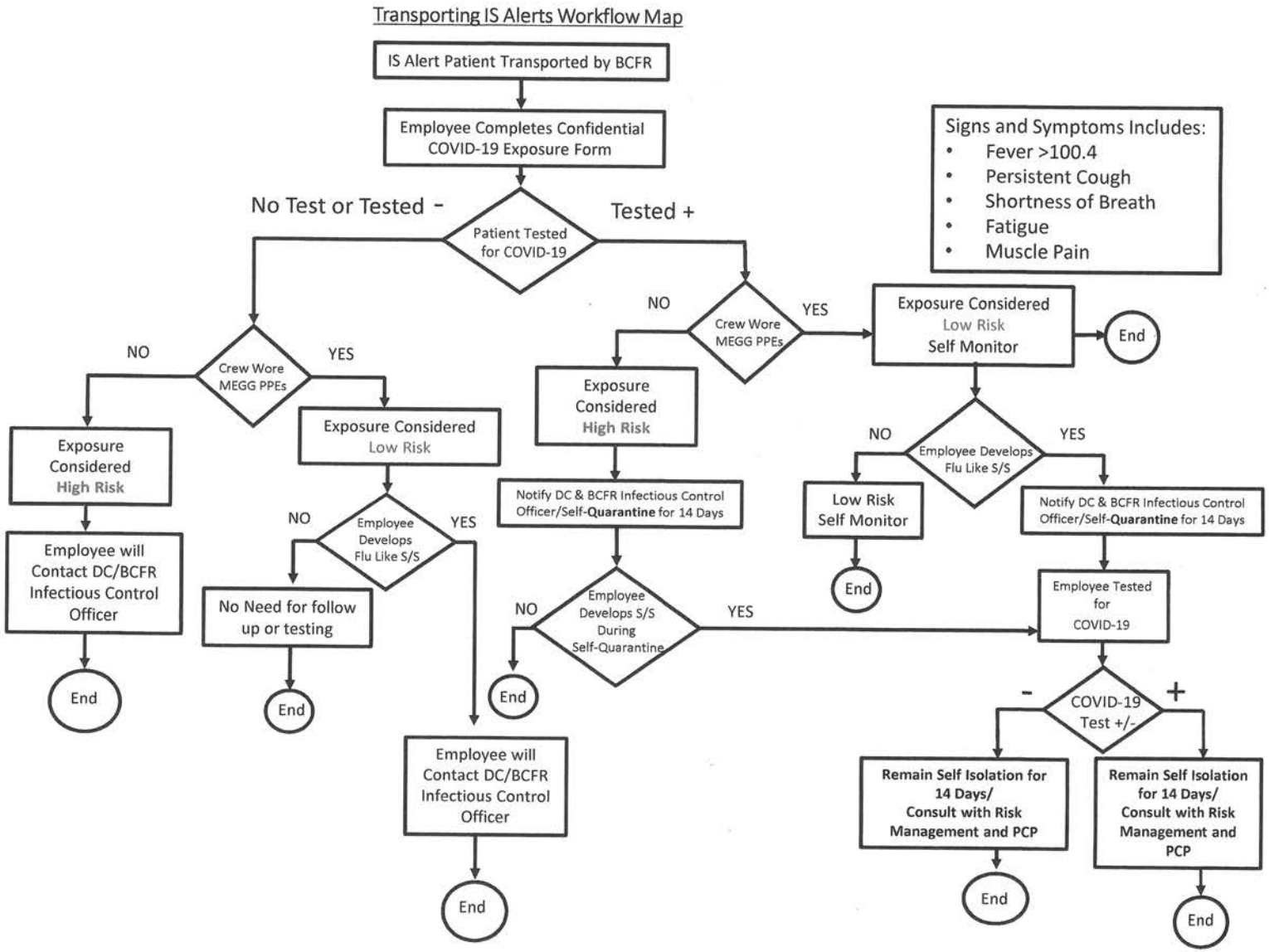
High Risk: An employee in close contact to a patient or co-worker with confirmed COVID-19. The appropriate PPE was worn throughout the patient encounter, but aerosol was likely generated, or there was failure of PPE, or an error was made during doffing, or the employee did not wear PPE it is considered automatic High Risk.

Borderline cases will be reviewed by the BCFR Medical Director.

Quarantine:
Self-quarantine: Asymptomatic employee self-monitors at home. If employee becomes ill, they contact their supervisor.

Isolation:
Self-isolation: Symptomatic employee self-monitors at home.

Testing:
Depending on the availability of test kits, BCFR may elect to have the employee tested for COVID-19, influenza, or other infectious diseases prior to returning to work.

Return to Work:
Employees sent home with minor illnesses and feel better by the next shift may be allowed to return to work if they pass the surveillance process.

BCFR has not yet determined the requirement to return to work for employees who test positive for COVID-19.