Guidance for Security Response to Suspected/Positive COVID-19 Patients: Escorting and Handling if Combative

April 20, 2020

Guidance for escorting suspected COVID-19 patients in, out and around hospital facilities –

Planning assumptions:
• Security staff may be called to escort patients who are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive in and around the hospital facility.
• Security staff shall be fully trained in the proper donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE), to include gowns, gloves, N-95 masks and eye protection.

Operational plan:
• When a security officer is directed to escort a suspected or positive COVID-19 patient from any location, certain precautions shall be undertaken for the safety for the security officer, other colleagues and other people in the vicinity.
• The patient shall be given a surgical mask which must always be worn.
• The security officer shall wear appropriate PPE, to include at a minimum, gloves and N-95 mask.
• Social distancing shall be maintained wherever practical. If an elevator is necessary, the security officer shall ensure there are no other passengers on the elevator before entering. Additionally, passengers attempting to enter from any floor shall be stopped from doing so.
• Upon completion of the escort, the patient shall keep his/her mask. PPE of the security officer shall be removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner.

Guidance for security response to combative suspected/positive COVID-19 patients –

To prepare for responses involving a patient suspected/positive COVID -19, MercyOne Des Moines Public Safety shall ensure each responding officer has been adequately trained in the proper donning and doffing of PPE. This training should cover the use of a surgical mask, N-95, gloves, protective eyewear and isolation gown. PPE shall be packaged for use that is convenient for the responding officers. PPE may be placed in areas of higher risk to be readily available.

If a suspected or positive COVID-19 patient becomes combative, the nurse caring for the patient shall provide a brief report to the responding security officers.

Upon receiving a call for a combative patient with suspected or confirmed infectious disease, responding officers shall don their PPE prior to arrival of the location. If the responding officers do not learn the combative patient is suspected or confirmed as having COVID-19 until their arrival, officers shall don their appropriate PPE before contact with the patient.
During physical contact with a combative suspected or confirmed COVID-19, PPE may become compromised by being torn, knocked off, removed, etc. Dependent on the type of isolation, the following procedures should be used:

- **Contact isolation**: Wash hands thoroughly and anywhere physical contact was made. Change clothes as soon as practical. Document the incident and notify the supervisor.

- **Droplet Isolation**: Document exposure, contact the supervisor, and monitor temperature and any symptoms. Additionally, notify MercyOne Des Moines Employee Health and Wellness Services within 24 hours.

- **COVID-19**: Transmission may occur by being within the physical space (up to 6 feet) of the infected person(s). Exposure is not an automatic quarantine. Exposed persons should take their temperature twice a day and monitor for symptoms for fourteen (14) days. Notify MercyOne Des Moines Employee Health and Wellness Services.