



# Adams·Benton·Franklin·Yakima Counties

Kevin E. Hodges, M.D., FACEP  
EMS Medical Program Director



---

---

## M E M O

Date: July 13, 2022

To: All EMS agencies/provides in Adams, Benton, Franklin, and Yakima Counties

From: Kevin Hodges, MD  
EMS Medical Program Director

RE: Update on PPE Requirements

---

We are still losing EMS providers to illness and all the morbidity and discomfort that goes with it. In addition to Covid-19 variants, we are also in a peak of Influenza A and B and other respiratory pathogens. Remember, even if it doesn't seem like Covid-19, you still don't want what the patient has. To protect ourselves and fellow EMS providers, as well as their families, the MPD office is issuing/updating the following PPE guidelines.

- Gowns are no longer required on cardiac arrests but should still be considered when providers feel there is a probability of bodily fluid exposure.
- Minimum PPE expectations for providers in close contact with patients on indoor calls (including when in an enclosed ambulance with a patient) are N95 mask, eye protection, and gloves.
- Outdoor, low-risk calls may be performed with a surgical mask instead of the N95. Eye protection and gloves are still required.
- Providers with minimal expected patient contact may elect to use a surgical mask instead of an N95 on calls that do not involve any of the following: fever, chills, body aches, cough, trouble breathing, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Mask all your patients. The incidence of "surprise" or co-existing infections is very high and a surgical mask on the patient is an excellent barrier to reduce chances of viral transmission.
- If you are unvaccinated and have an unprotected exposure to Covid-19 (see CDC definition), you are expected to quarantine for 10 days, or for 7 days if you are asymptomatic and have a negative test on day #5.
- Vaccinated providers who are exposed do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.
- If you are sick, please stay home. Even if it's not Covid, your patients and your co-workers don't want it.

Thank you all again, for all you do.

Kevin Hodges, MD FACEP

[BFCountyMPD@gmail.com](mailto:BFCountyMPD@gmail.com)