



## **No Transport for Suspected COVID-19 Patients: Guidance for EMS Providers**

The Bureau of EMS released EMSIB 2020-06 Protocol and Policy Update Related to COVID-19, which provides guidance for EMS to not transport influenza-like illness with the approval of medical command.

The EHSF worked jointly with the medical command facility directors and the physicians of the EHSF Medical Advisory Committee to produce a tool to be used regionally to align with EMSIB 2020-06 and BLS Protocol 931. This tool will assist EMS providers to identify patients presenting with influenza-like illness and provide criteria to a medical command physician when contacting to consider if the patient can remain at home for self-care.

When using the EMS Triage Tool for Suspected COVID-19, if **ALL** CHECKS are in non-shaded boxes and the patient agrees to stay home, then EMS should contact a medical command physician, provide the criteria identified on the tool and request permission so the patient may be provided home care instructions and not transported to a hospital. EMS will conduct a patient assessment, complete the EMS Triage Tool for Suspected COVID-19, consult medical command, and provide the patient with Home Care Instructions for Suspected COVID-19.

When using the EMS Triage Tool for Suspected COVID-19, if **ANY CHECKS** are in a shaded box and the patient wishes to remain home, then EMS should contact a medical command physician, provide the criteria on the triage tool identified on the tool, and wait for the medical command physician to determine if the patient qualifies for home self-care or needs to be transported to a receiving facility (i.e. emergency department).

Any patient may be transported at the EMS provider or medical command physician's discretion. Additionally, if the patient desires transport after the recommendation to remain at home, then EMS must transport the patient to an appropriate receiving facility (i.e. emergency department) or an alternate destination (if approved by the medical command physician).

When EMS is using the EMS Triage Tool for Suspected COVID-19 and identifies a patient who may remain at home, the EMS provider shall include a copy of the EMS Triage Tool for Suspected COVID-19 in the patient care report.