

IEMA

**Alternate
Housing
Transportation
Plan**

04/24/2020

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Statewide / IDPH Regional Medical Transportation Resource List can be provided upon request

Purpose

This plan is for the transportation of civilians affected by COVID-19. This plan is specific to transport to and from Alternate Housing Facilities. This will involve EMS services, county resources and public and private alternate transportation modes. Suggested Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), transport guidance and decontamination procedures for transport vehicles are included.

Situation

Alternate Housing Sites are utilized to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the community. This is accomplished by sheltering individuals who are unable to quarantine at home. The preferred method of transport to an Alternate Housing Site is a privately-owned vehicle. When transportation in a privately-owned vehicle is not available, transportation will be arranged by the county.

Definitions:

Alternate Housing Sites (AHS) - locations throughout the state to house patients or civilians that cannot quarantine in their home.

Alternate Care Sites (ACS) - sites established by the State of Illinois to treat positive COVID-19 patients.

Decontamination – the process of removing or neutralizing contaminants that have accumulated on personnel and equipment.

Public Transportation – buses, trains and other forms of transportation that charge set fares, run on fixed routes and are available to the public.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Equipment worn to prevent exposure to hazardous substances (chemicals, infectious agents, particles)

Safety

Employers should educate transportation workers to recognize the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Workers should perform daily self-screening beginning the first time they transport a passenger until 14 days after the last time they transported a passenger. Each worker should be instructed that the following symptoms need to be reported to their supervisor: fever of 100.4°F or higher, cough, difficulty breathing, or shortness of breath. Drivers should wear appropriate PPE while transporting passengers.

Public Transportation to Alternate Housing Site (AHS)

If a member from the general public needs alternate housing provisions, this will be coordinated through the local county health department for approval. If all means of personal transportation have been exhausted, the county will organize transportation to one of the Alternate Housing Sites.

Transportation from an Alternate Care Site/Hospital to AHS

When it is deemed necessary to move a patient out of an ACS or hospital and the patient is not able to return to their regular place of residency, an AHS may be utilized. The first choice will be for the patient to use a personal vehicle. If a personal vehicle is not available, the county health department will arrange a means of transportation to the AHS.

Transportation from an AHS to Alternate Care Site/Hospital

If a resident needs medical care while at one of the designated AHS, the local 911 system will be utilized.

Personal Protective Equipment Recommendations for Transporting Passengers

When transporting a known COVID-19 positive passenger, drivers should wear an N-95 respirator or facemask as well as gloves and eye protection. The passenger being transported should wear a face mask or cloth face covering. If the status of the passenger is unknown, the minimum PPE requirement for both the driver and passenger(s) is a face mask or cloth face covering. Social distancing should be observed, to the extent practicable, at all times. When passengers are boarding the vehicle, the driver should exit and maintain at least 6 feet from passengers. No additional passengers should be picked up during transport unless it has been approved by the local health department. Drivers should practice regular hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol base hand sanitizer, containing at least 60% alcohol. Workers should have a supply of hand sanitizer for personal use in the vehicle since hand washing facilities may not be accessible.

Recommended Decontamination Procedures for Non-EMS Transport Vehicles

1. Decontamination of vehicles should be performed at the beginning and end of each shift as well as between passengers.
2. Individuals should wear disposable gloves compatible with the products being used as well as any other PPE required according to the product manufacturer's instructions. The use of a disposable gown is also recommended, if available.
3. All windows and doors should remain open when cleaning the vehicle.
4. Any surfaces that are dirty should first be cleaned with detergent or soap and water.
5. All surfaces should be disinfected with EPA-approved disinfectant in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
 - a. Surfaces include but are not limited to the following:
 - i. All surfaces within the driver's compartment including but not limited to:

- Steering wheel, gear shift, turn signal, key fob, seat belt or starter button
 - ii. All surfaces within the passenger compartment including but not limited to:
 - Plastic and/or metal such as seatbacks, armrests, tray tables, air vents, lights, wheelchair lift controls
 - Adjacent walls and windows, grab bars and poles
 - Upholstery on seating and back rest surfaces
 - b. For soft surfaces such as fabric seats, remove any visible contamination, if present, and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning, disinfect using products that are EPA-approved and that are suitable for the surface.
 - c. Ensure that the surface is covered with the disinfectant for the full contact time recommended by the manufacturer.
- 6. After the vehicle has been cleaned and disinfected, gloves and other disposable PPE or cleaning equipment should be removed and disposed. Any reusable PPE or cleaning equipment must be properly cleaned and decontaminated after use.
- 7. If a disposable gown was not worn, clothes worn during decontamination of the vehicles should be laundered using warmest appropriate water setting and dry completely. Hands should be washed immediately after handling unwashed laundry.
- 8. Wash hands immediately after removal of PPE for 20 seconds with soap and water or an alcohol based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

Appendix “A” – Transportation FAQs

Who is responsible for transportation to and from alternate housing sites?

When a county refers an individual to an alternate housing site, the county takes on the responsibility to coordinate transportation to and from the alternate housing sites by leveraging the individual’s access to transportation and county resources.

What are some methods of individual transportation?

When referring an individual to alternate housing, discuss their accessibility to various methods of transportation, including but not limited to the following:

- Personal vehicle
- Friends/family

Precautions should be taken to limit exposure travelling to and from alternate housing sites under quarantine and isolation. Individuals who have completed their quarantine or isolation can also consider the following:

- Public transport
- Uber/Lyft/taxi

What if an individual doesn’t have access to transportation?

If an individual doesn’t have access to transportation, the referring county may leverage their resources to provide transportation. Potential transportation options include but are not limited to the following:

- Local government resources for van, bus, “turtle top”
 - park districts – school – transportation district or others available
- Private/Nonprofit resources for van, bus, “turtle top”
 - Senior centers, extended care, car dealerships, rehabilitation centers, etc.

What if our county doesn’t have access to sufficient transportation?

If a county has exhausted their transportation options, the referring county may request state assistance through WebEOC and in discussion with SEOC.

Note, if procured through the state, need minimum of 10-14 day lead time.

What if a first responder or medical worker is staying at an AHS and needs transportation to and from work?

Coordinate transportation between the county and local municipalities. Whether it be a shuttle service, government vehicle, etc., the county is responsible for the transportation of workers in their jurisdiction.

How do we decontaminate vehicles post use?

Please reference the decontamination of transportation section above. For additional guidance on decontamination and PPE usage, please see the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/disinfecting-transport-vehicles.html>

Appendix “B” - Transport Requirements and Guidelines Human Resources

EMS IDPH Transport Requirements and Guidelines 041020

For Non-Emergency Transports Only

Physician Certification Statement (PCS) for Ambulance Transport

IMPORTANT: A patient is only eligible for ambulance transportation if, at the time of transport, he or she is **unable** to travel **safely** in a personal vehicle, taxi, or wheelchair van.

Ambulance transport requests that are for the patient's preference, or because assistance is needed at the origin or destination (to navigate stairs and/or to assist or lift the patient), and/or because another provider with the appropriate type of service is not immediately available **does not meet criteria** and **will not be eligible for reimbursement**. Service must be to the nearest available appropriate provider/facility.

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE - COMPLETE THIS FORM AND PROVIDE IT TO THE APPROPRIATE AMBULANCE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

PATIENT INFORMATION: Name: Date of Birth:

TRANSPORT INFORMATION: Type: Discharge to Home or Nursing Facility Direct Admit to Hospital Appointment

ORIGINATING FACILITY (Spell out - no abbreviations):

City: State: Zip:

DESTINATION (Spell out - no abbreviations):

City: State: Zip:

Name:

State of Illinois

Department of Human Services

CERTIFICATION. I certify that the above information is true and correct based on my evaluation of this patient at or just prior to the time of transport, and represent that the patient requires transport by ambulance

and that other forms of transport are contraindicated. I understand that this information will be used by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and other payers to support the determination of medical necessity for ambulance services. I also certify that I am a representative of the facility initiating this order and that our institution has furnished care

or other services to the above named patient in the past. In the event you are unable to obtain the signature of the patient or another authorized representative, my signature below is made on behalf of the patient

pursuant to 42 CFR §424.36(b)(4).

Printed Name of Licensed Medical Professional

Signature of Licensed Medical Professional Date Signed

All fields on this form are mandatory and must be legible.

Appendix “C” Action Levels – Trigger Points

Trigger points for each level will be 60%. So, when any level reaches a 60% capacity, the next level will be activated. Be aware the FEMA transporters could be 24 to 48 hours out. Anytime a level IV is reached, this shall be requested through IEMA.

- Emergency 911 Request
 - Level I- Local transport agencies public and private, normal day operations
 - Staging-in respective quarters
 - Level II- MABAS, Contract Agencies, City of Chicago EMS Transport Vehicle
 - Staging-in respective quarters or as directed by the IC in the requested area.
 - Level III- Statewide MABAS, Ambulance Strike Force.
 - Staging to be decided by the IC in the requested area.
 - Level IV - FEMA Ambulance transport Contracts
 - Staging to be decided by the IC in the requested area.
- To/From AHS
 - Level I- Local transport agencies public and private, normal day operations
 - Client self-transport via POV, cab, mass transit, personal resources
 - Client is provided transport through provisions in the local ERP
 - If local government unable to provide:
 - reach out to local government resources for van, bus, “turtle top” from park – school – transportation district or others available
 - reach out to senior centers, extended care, car dealerships, rehabilitation centers, etc. for van, bus, “turtle top”
 - If procured through the state, need minimum of 10-14 day lead time. (Reference plan for PPE & Decontamination

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Appendix “D” – Alternate Care Sites Addresses

ACS Locations Reference ACS Transportation plan for additional information.

McCormick Place

(McCormick Zone - within the City of Chicago)
2301 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive,
Chicago, IL 60616
Contact Number -

Metro South ACF

(Metro South Zone – South of 119th Street) Transport Annex Zone 3
12935 S Gregory Street
Blue Island, IL. 60406
Contact Number -

Elgin ACF (Formally Sherman)

(Sherman Zone – Lake County, McHenry County, Kane County, Cook County- North of Bartlett and/or Rosemont) Transport Annex Zone 1
901 Center Street
Elgin, IL. 60120
Contact Number -

Westlake ACF

(Westlake Zone – West of Harlem Ave, South of Lake Cook Road, North of 119th Street)
Transport Annex Zone 2
1225 West Lake Street
Melrose Park, IL. 60160
Contact Number -

Jessie Brown VA Hospital

Zone II – City of Chicago
820 South Damen
Chicago, IL. 60612
Contact Number -

Himes VA Hospital

Zone II – City of Chicago
5000 5th Ave.
Chicago, IL. 60141
Contact Number -

Marion VA Hospital

Zone Southern
2401 West Main Street
Marion, IL. 62959

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