



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Bill J. Crouch  
Cabinet Secretary


Bureau for Public Health  
Office of Emergency Medical Services  
State EMS Medical Director's Office

Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH  
Commissioner & State Health Officer

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 30, 2020

**TO:** EMS Agency Official Representatives  
EMS Agency Medical Directors  
OEMS Medical Directors

**FROM:** Michael Mills, DO, FACEP   
State OEMS Medical Director

**RE:** **PPE Procedures During Advanced Airway Management and Cardiac Arrest During COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Effective immediately, March 30, 2020.** The following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) procedures will be adhered to for the protection of all prehospital providers related to COVID-19 pandemic during advanced airway management and cardiac arrest:

**General Precautions:**

- Approach all patients with mask (N95 if possible) and gloves on with gowns in hand (still packaged to conserve supplies).
- Perform initial questioning and assessment of patients from a minimum of six feet distance.

**PPE:**

- Full PPE will be utilized during advanced airway management and cardiac arrest.

**Intubation / Airway Management**

- Prehospital providers will remain in Full PPE during patient ventilation with either ETT or King airways due to possible aerosolized viral particles being released around inflated cuff.

- Use only one attempt utilizing the ET tube; if unsuccessful, place the King Airway and ventilate.
- Each time you ventilate a patient with the King Airway and experience an air leak, you could be aerosolizing potentially dangerous viral particles.
- Use a viral filter between the King and the Bag valve.
- Watch for King Airway leaks. If a leak is suspected inflate balloon to stop leak but not enough to compress major blood vessels in the neck supplying blood to the brain.

**Cardiac Arrest:**

- Assume every cardiac arrest is COVID-19 related.
- All personnel will utilize full PPE.
- For advanced airway placement, use only one attempt employing the Endotracheal Tube.
- If Endotracheal Tube Intubation is unsuccessful on first attempt, immediately place the King Airway.
- Stop Chest Compression momentarily during tube placement only.

**WVOEMS is following the CDC recommended guidelines for COVID-19. These GUIDELINES were posted on the website in February 2020. They are updated frequently. Please refer to the website frequently for timely updates <https://www.wvoems.org/medical-direction/novel-coronavirus-information>.**