

BCSAR/EMBC Quick Reference Guide

COVID-19 - Initial Approach to the Subject

ASSESS RISK FIRST!

No risk assessment, NO contact with subject!

Self -Team - Bystanders - Subject

Remain > 2m. from subject until screening completed:

Subject known to be Covid-19 positive?

or

Recent dry cough or shortness of breath?

or

Fever ?

or

Contact with known or suspected Covid-19 case in last 14 days?

or

Unconscious or unable to give history?

or

Symptoms of shortness of breath or chest tightness started recently but before today?

or

Need to give urgent, direct patient care (obvious serious injury)?

YES TO ANY HIGHER RISK!

Full PPE required:

- Reverse isolate subject with mask
- Rescuers: surgical mask (N95 only if giving 1ST Aid); wear gloves
- Eye protection (safety glasses or visor or helicopter goggles)
- Waterproof layer (e.g. GoreTex)

NO TO ALL Lower Risk Minimum required PPE:

- Reverse isolate subject with surgical mask (if < 2m.)
- Rescuers: surgical mask if < 2m. from subject
- Gloves & eye protection if touching subject/stretchers

- Team members – right to refuse unsafe work
- Bystanders MUST leave scene, IF SAFE
- Gear cache away from subject (6-10 m.=OK)
- If injuries, 1st Aid by minimal number (1 or 2)
- Runner between gear cache and subject
- Minimise total number of team members
- Advise aircrew or BCAS of Covid-19 status
- Package subject in disposable materials if possible; otherwise, washable preferred
- Focus on critical interventions only

- Maintain physical distance of all personnel & subject
- Wear PPE only if distance cannot be maintained or if patient contact necessary
- If injuries, use minimal number (1 or 2) for 1st Aid
- Minimise total number of team members
- Critical interventions only



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COVID-19 - Evacuation and Termination of Task

Evacuation Options

- Choose option which minimizes # of rescuers in contact with subject, & minimizes duration of contact with subject
- Class D (HETS) best way to limit # of rescuers & duration of contact
- If Class D not available, consider helicopter (inside cabin) or vehicle; subject & rescuers all wear surgical masks
- If subject is COVID +ve, alert pilot before flight; full PPE to be worn

Stretcher Evacuation

- Use a face shield on stretcher, if available
- Reverse isolate subject if they can tolerate a surgical mask
- Do NOT use N95 on subject (exhaust ports lack filters)
- Stretcher carriers wear gloves, glasses & surg. mask if COVID -ve
- Wear gloves, mask, glasses & waterproof clothing if COVID +ve

Subject is Mobile

- If subject uninjured & has adequate fitness, hiking out is best way to maintain proper physical distance
- If > 2m. spacing can be maintained, no masks needed
- If 2m. spacing NOT maintained, subject & rescuers all wear masks

Termination of Task

- Ensure proper procedures followed when doffing gear; soap & water or hand sanitizer must be available
- Use “spotter” to observe members doffing PPE (spotter watches to ensure members follow proper PPE doffing protocols; ensure members do not touch “dirty” objects with “clean” hands; etc.)
- All modes of transport need to be decontaminated once subject evacuated, including rescue gear, stretchers, vehicles & helicopters
- If subject was confirmed COVID +ve, do very thorough cleaning; soft goods (clothing, blankets, wraps, etc. should be bagged for subsequent washing).

Self-Isolation/ Monitoring

- If PPE worn, members do NOT need to self-isolate, even if subject is known COVID +ve. If no PPE worn contact 811 for advice.
- All members must self-monitor for symptoms (Sx) of respiratory illness for 14 days after task completion, regardless of subject's COVID status. If Sx develop, call 811 or your own doctor for advice.