COVID-19 data Documentation Guidance
For Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Providers

The Washington State Department of Health has new guidance for tracking COVID-19 by EMS providers. The National Emergency Medical Information System (NEMSIS) and EMS patient care report software companies have begun adding new fields and values to their data systems to meet this need. Below is a summary of what should be included in each patient care report for COVID-19 patients and any patients with possible exposure to COVID-19.

Using any new fields or values that are not listed below may cause your reports to fail the state export process, or for the record to not be flagged in the state's COVID-19 response. If you are unsure of whether the codes or fields in your software align with those listed in this guidance, contact your software vendor or the WEMSIS program for assistance.

NEW: Provider's Primary or Secondary Impression (eSituation.11 or eSituation.12) values/ICD 10 codes
- B97.29 – **COVID-19 – Confirmed by testing** – *Use for positive COVID-19 diagnosis only*
- Z20.828 – **Infectious disease exposure with a confirmed case** – *Use when the patient is **known or suspected** to have been exposed to someone with COVID-19*
- Z20.9 – **Infectious disease suspected – unknown exposure** – *Use when the patient is suspected to have been exposed to an infectious disease, but the EMS provider **does not know** if it was COVID-19. The patient has symptoms but exposure is unknown.*

When using any of the above impressions, providers are required to also document:
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Used** (eOther.03), which will include the **new** values "Gown," "Face Shield," and "Isolation Coveralls." Existing values that DOH is monitoring for resource allocation include "Mask-N95," "Mask-Surgical (Non-Fitted)," "Eye Protection," and "Gloves." Some software offer the custom value "None." If no PPE is used and your software does not have "None" as an option, select "Other."
- **NEW: Recent Exposure to Infectious Disease** (eHistory.903) defined as *prior to symptom onset, has the patient had close contact with someone with similar symptoms or a confirmed diagnosis of the illness for which you are screening?**
- **NEW: Recent Travel** (eHistory.901) defined as *prior to symptom onset, did the patient travel outside their community?**
- If transporting the patient, **Destination Team Pre-Arrival Alert or Activation** (eDisposition.24), which will include the **new** value "Yes—Biological/Infectious Precautions"

*In Washington State we are defining:
- Prior to symptom onset: the period of 14 days prior to the onset of symptoms
- Community: the area within the patient's zip code of residence

When recent travel is documented as "Yes," providers are also required to document one of the following:

- **NEW:** **Recent Local Travel** (eHistory.902) defined as *document all places and locations the patient has traveled to that might have posed a significant threat of exposure prior to symptom onset.* This field will allow providers to type out any place or location (e.g., X Farmer's Market, X Convention Center, X Recital)
- **NEW:** **Recent International Travel** (eHistory.904) defined as *document all the countries (outside the US) the patient has traveled to prior to symptom onset*. This will be a pick list.
- **NEW:** **Recent State Travel** (eHistory.905) and **Recent City Travel** (eHistory.906), which will both be pick lists.

For patient tracking and outreach, DOH uses the following information: incident date and times, patient name, patient gender, patient date of birth, patient home location, patient email address, patient phone number, scene location, response type, incident/patient disposition, and destination name and code.

Other fields you may identify as useful when treating possible or confirmed COVID-19 patients:

- Medical/Surgical History (eHistory.08) – the same ICD 10 codes may be used as the ones in the provider impression fields
- Primary or Other Associated Symptoms (eSituation.09 or eSituation.10)
- Temperature (eVitals.24)
- Respiratory Effort (eVitals.15)
- Chest/Lungs Assessment (eExam.08)
- Date/Time of Symptom Onset (eSituation.01)
- Ending Travel Date (itExam.071)
- Beginning Travel Date (itExam.072)
- Type of Destination (eDisposition.21)
- The Type of Work-Related Injury, Death or Suspected Exposure (eOther.06)
- Barriers to Patient Care (eHistory.01)
- Medication Given (eMedications.03)
- Procedure (eProcedures.03)

If you have questions on the availability or usage of these fields and values, contact WEMSIS@doh.wa.gov.