**Notice to all City First Aid Attendants – Protocols to follow during COVID - 19**

Human coronaviruses cause infections of the nose, throat and lungs. They are most commonly spread from an infected person through:

* respiratory droplets generated when you cough or sneeze
* close, prolonged personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
* touching something with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes

**Room Cleaning and Supplies**

* Disinfect all medical equipment at the beginning of every shift
* Disinfect all hard surfaces at the beginning of every shift
* Place additional emphasis on door handles

Ensure you have adequate first aid supplies, gloves and a face shield.

**Initial Patient Assessment – Pre Screening**

Wash hands with plenty of soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds and then put on your nitrile or vinyl gloves. If you are traveling to the patient and do not have access to soap and water, use hand sanitizer prior to donning gloves.

Minimize unnecessary exposure to the patient until the patient assessment is completed.

Ideally, verbally assess the patient from a distance of 6 feet away.

During the initial assessment ask the following questions:

* Have you travelled to an area infected with COVID-19?
* Where did you travel?
* How long ago did you travel there?
* Have you been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19?

If the answer is ‘Yes’ to any of the above questions, put on your face shield or tight fitting safety goggles.

**Note**: The BC Centre for Disease Control states that N-95 respirators are not required for protection from COIVD-19 as only large to small droplets can carry the virus. Airborne particles dry out too fast to transmit the virus.

Continue with Patient Assessment as per normal protocols. If patient answered yes to any of the about bullet points, advise supervisor to send the patient home and to call 8-1-1 for further instructions.

Document all assessments in the City First Aid Record Book.

Ensure proper personal care, hand cleaning and decontamination of equipment prior to leaving scene/First Aid Room.