

COVID-19 NOTIFICATIONS TO 911 PSAPs AND FIRST RESPONDER AGENCIES

COVID-19 Notifications to 911 Public Safety Answering Points

It is essential that EMS and other first responders are informed of any potential exposure to patients who test positive for COVID-19. The health and safety of our first responders is extremely important and notifying them in a timely manner of any exposure to COVID-19 allows them to keep themselves, their families, and the general public safe, and helps us to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

This notification procedure will allow the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) to notify 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) of any confirmed COVID-19 cases in their jurisdiction.

Testing data is received by DPH

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) receives COVID-19 testing data from hospitals and acute care facilities as well as both public and private labs each day.^a

Daily cases are pulled and sent to 911 PSAPs

GEMA/HS will pull the daily COVID-19 case list from the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS) and will separate the list into each of the eight GEMA/HS Regions.^b GEMA/HS regional staff will break the list down into the cities and counties that are served by each of the 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in the Region, and the appropriate list will be sent to each PSAP.^c The data will only include the address (street, city, state, county, ZIP), Date of Onset and the List Removal Date (21 days after the Date of Onset).

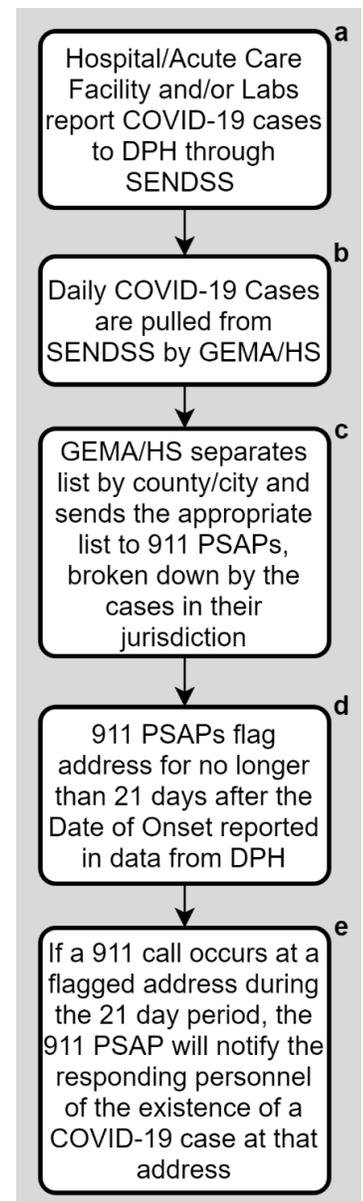
911 PSAPs create flag for address

Each PSAP will need to create a flag for the addresses on the list provided to them. The flag must only be visible to dispatchers if a call is received from that address and the flag must be set to expire on the List Removal Date.^d

911 call at a flagged address

If the 911 PSAP receives a call at a flagged address, then the dispatchers should inform the responding personnel of the existence of a COVID-19 case at that address.^e The case information must not be broadcast on an open channel and must only be made available to the individuals responding to the call. If a secondary dispatch center is used to dispatch an additional responding agency, then the secondary dispatch center must follow the same requirements.

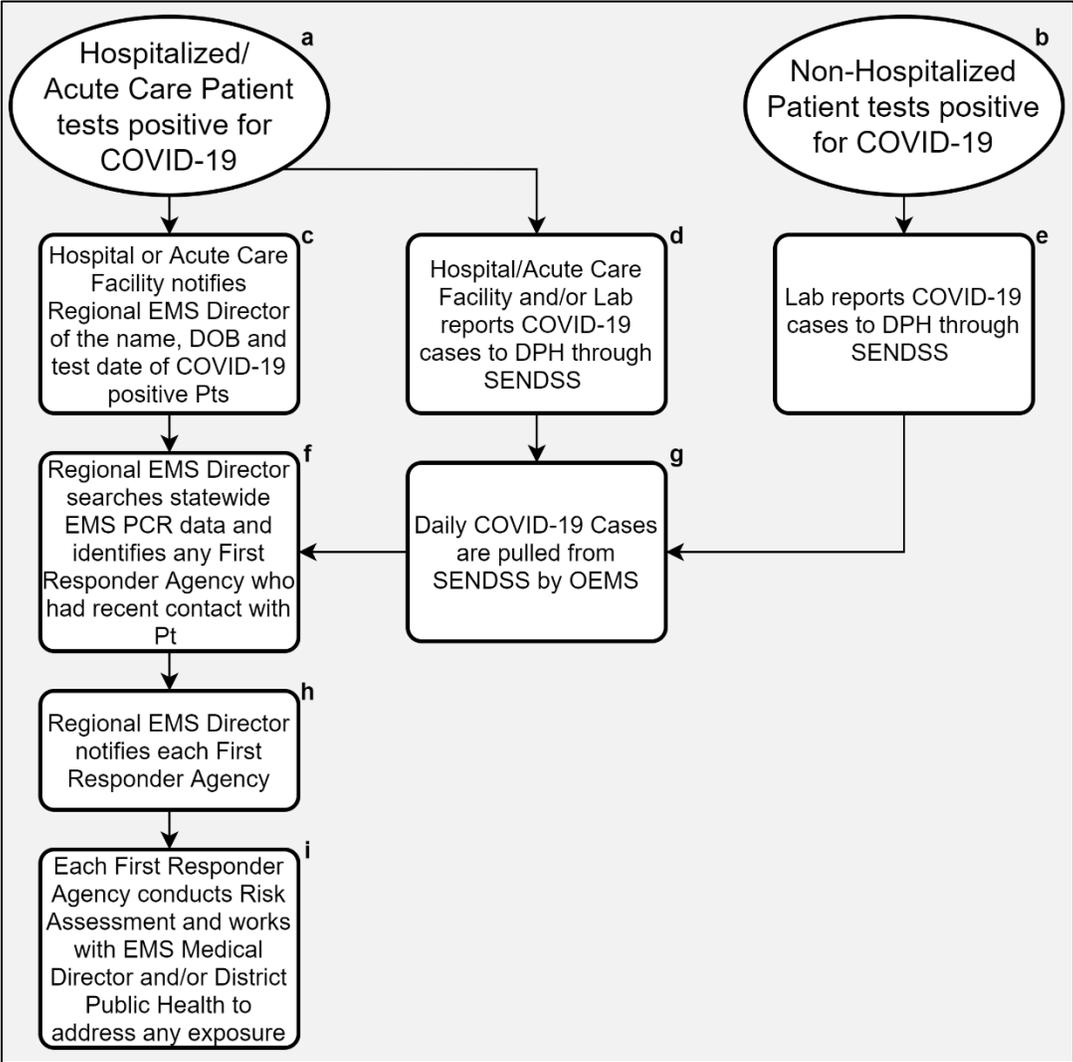
NOTE: It is important to understand that most cases of COVID-19 in the community are not known so precautions should be taken to protect all first responders on all calls, regardless of whether the address has been flagged. The list provided will only contain the address of those persons who are known to be positive following a test and **cannot** be assumed to contain the locations of all persons who are capable of transmitting SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19. 911 PSAPs should continue to ask the COVID-19 screening questions for all requested responses.



COVID-19 Notifications to First Responders After Potential Exposure

It is essential that EMS and other first responders are informed of any exposure to patients who test positive for COVID-19. The health and safety of our first responders is extremely important and notifying them in a timely manner of any potential exposure to COVID-19 allows them to keep themselves, their families, and the general public safe, and helps us to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is also important to understand that most cases of COVID-19 in the community are not known so precautions should be taken to protect yourself.

COVID-19 Notifications to First Responder Agencies related to EMS Calls



Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients

Given that there is sometimes a delay in the reporting to SENDSS, DPH is asking hospitals and acute care facilities to quickly notify the Regional EMS Director of any COVID-19 cases to allow for timely notifications to all first responder agencies who may have come into contact with the patient when the patient was potentially capable of transmitting SARS-CoV-2.

Hospitals or acute care facilities that have a patient who tests positive for COVID-19^a should:

1. Notify^c the DPH Regional EMS Director of the name, DOB and test date for any COVID-19 positive patient; and
2. Notify^d DPH through the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS).

Non-Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients

Non-Hospitalized Patients who test positive for COVID-19^b are reported to DPH through SENDSS by the laboratory facility.^e Daily COVID-19 cases will be pulled from SENDSS^g and given to the appropriate Regional EMS Director.

Regional EMS Director Notifications to First Responder Agencies

The Regional EMS Director will take the patient information provided by hospitals and acute care facilities, as well as the daily COVID-19 case list from SENDSS and:

1. Search Georgia electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) database and identify any first responder agency who had contact with the patient within two weeks prior and two weeks after the patient's test date.^f
2. Notify the first responder agencies of a possible exposure.^h PCR data will identify the EMS agency that generated the PCR, and if the PCR contains data related to any other first responder agencies on scene, they will be notified as well.
 - a. Each first responder agency should conduct a risk assessment for potential exposure for any first responder who made patient contact, and should work with the EMS Medical Director or district public health office to address any exposure.ⁱ
 - b. The risk assessment and public health management of exposures should be based on the latest CDC guidance available here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>.

Notifications to first responders related to non-EMS calls (Fire Department, Law Enforcement, Other)

There are times when the general public may come into contact with first responder agencies not related to an EMS call. This can include both fire and law enforcement calls. If any COVID-19 patient is known to have had contact with any first responder agency during the time that they may have been able to transmit SARS-CoV-2, then hospitals, acute care facilities, county health departments or district public health offices should notify those agencies of the possible exposure.

Notifications to first responders upon dispatch

DPH has issued an Administrative Order for Public Health Control Measures that requires individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 to notify emergency services (Fire Department, EMS, Law Enforcement) of their status when calling 911. All callers to 911 (or to the non-emergency number for a public safety answering point) should be specifically informed of this requirement and asked to provide the COVID-19 status of all persons present at the location. The current Administrative Order can be read here: <https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/secondamendedaoiq41201pdf/download>

Priority COVID-19 testing for first responders

The Georgia Department of Public Health follows the COVID-19 testing priorities established by the CDC and will prioritize testing of any first responder who is exposed. See the CDC guidance here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/priority-testing-patients.pdf>

Regional EMS Director Contact Information

Region	Counties	Regional EMS Director
1	Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker and Whitfield	David T. Foster 404-989-4231 david.foster@dph.ga.gov
2	Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White	Lanier Swafford 404-859-9489 lanier.swafford@dph.ga.gov
3	Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale	EJ Dailey 404-597-9775 ej.dailey@dph.ga.gov
4	Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Fayette, Heard, Henry, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup and Upson	Vincent Harris 404-323-4798 vincent.harris@dph.ga.gov
5	Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Dodge, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Monroe, Montgomery, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Telfair, Treutlen, Twiggs, Washington, Wheeler, Wilcox and Wilkinson	Kelly Joiner 470-599-9279 kelly.joiner@dph.ga.gov
6	Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren and Wilkes	Gary Pinard 470-898-6254 gary.pinard@dph.ga.gov
7	Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Talbot, Taylor and Webster	Russ McGee 404-319-4581 russ.mcgee@dph.ga.gov
8	Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Sumter, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner and Worth	Robert Vick 404-989-5173 robert.vick@dph.ga.gov
9	Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Coffee, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Pierce, Tattnall, Toombs, Ware and Wayne	Robert Shad 706-993-6177 robert.shad@dph.ga.gov
10	Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Walton	Chris Threlkeld 706-816-0837 chris.threlkeld@dph.ga.gov

For a map of Georgia's EMS Regions, please visit:

<https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/georgia-public-health-districts/download>

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